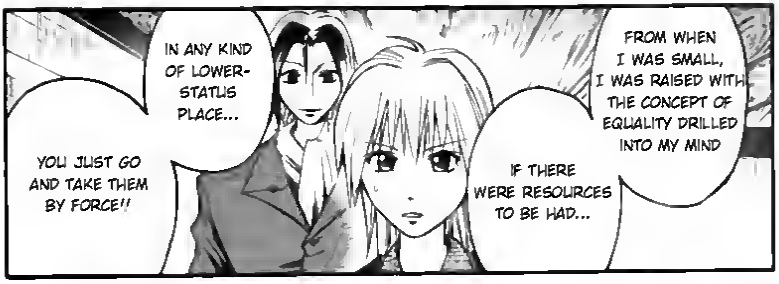
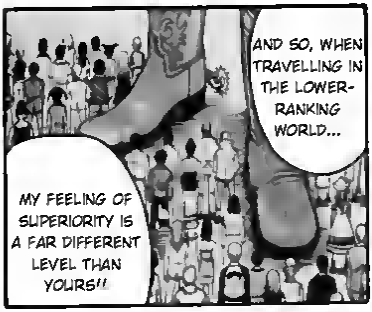

IN ANY KIND OF LOWER-STATUS PLACE...
YOU JUST GO AND TAKE THEM BY FORCE!!
IF THERE WERE RESOURCES TO BE HAD...
FROM WHEN I WAS SMALL, I WAS RAISED WITH THE CONCEPT OF EQUALITY DRILLED INTO MY MIND

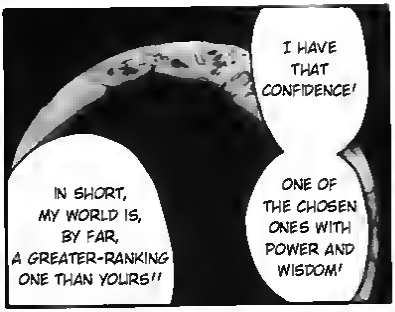
I CAN DO THAT, BECAUSE I HAVE STATUS AND POWER!
AND AS FOR YOU LOWER-STATUS PEOPLE...
THERE'S NO WAY I'LL LET YOU DEFY ME!!
CHAPTER 35
格【RANK】

TRANSLATION: ANONYMOUS EDITING: ANONYMOUS CLEANING: ANONYMOUS
DISTRIBUTE FREELY UNTIL LICENSED TRANSLATIONS EXIST. ANONYMOUS DOES NOT FORGIVE!

OH, OF COURSE WE WERE
I LOVE CULTURAL EXCHANGE!!
BUT
THE PERSON WHO HAS THE PRIVILEGE TO ENJOY CULTURAL EXCHANGE THE MOST OUT OF ANY TWO PARTICIPANTS IS ..
THE PERSON WHO RANKS HIGHER
WHY...
YOU KILLED HER JUST FOR THAT?
YOU CAME HERE AS AN EXCHANGE STUDENT ON PURPOSE..
WEREN'T YOU GOOD FRIENDS?
"EVERYONE LOOKS PRETTY FASHIONABLE"
"I'D LIKE TO MOVE TO THIS AREA WHEN I GET OLDER..."
.....
THE THINGS YOU SAY WHEN YOU CITY RESIDENTS VISIT THE COUNTRYSIDE...
"WOW, EVERYTHING'S THRIVING HERE"
"IT DOESN'T LOOK SO BAD AT A GLANCE"
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, DAVID?
I THINK YOU UNDERSTAND, SINCE YOU LIKE TO TRAVEL

THE FEELING OF SUPERIORITY!!
IF YOU WEREN'T CONFIDENT THAT YOU WERE OF HIGHER STATUS...
YOU WOULDN'T SAY THOSE THINGS!!


AND SO, WHEN TRAVELLING IN THE LOWER-RANKING WORLD...
MY FEELING OF SUPERIORITY IS A FAR DIFFERENT LEVEL THAN YOURS!!


I HAVE THAT CONFIDENCE!
ONE OF THE CHOSEN ONES WITH POWER AND WISDOM!
IN SHORT, MY WORLD IS, BY FAR, A GREATER-RANKING ONE THAN YOURS!!

IT REALLY DOES MAKE ME VERY SATISFIED
ACTING AS THOUGH YOU ARE HAPPY TO BE HUMBLED!!

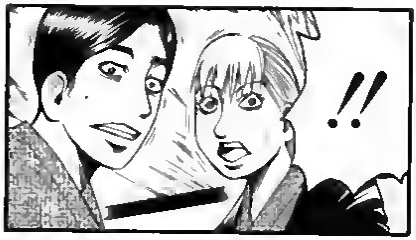
AND YOUR RESOURCE IS...
THE WONDERFUL SPIRIT OF FLATTERY!!
THEN, LIKE THE ONSEN IN THIS TOWN...
THERE ARE RESOURCES WHEREVER A PERSON TRAVELS...

THAT'S RIGHT!!
IN ORDER TO TASTE THAT...
I WAS DESPERATE TO LEARN JAPAN'S LANGUAGE AND CULTURE
FELT THAT JAPAN WAS YOUR BEST BET?
OF COURSE
YOU, WHO SOUGHT THE FEELING OF SUPERIORITY THROUGH CULTURAL EXCHANGE...
SO I SPOKE UP!!
I THOUGHT SHE'D BE HAPPY TO FLATTER ME!!
SHE WAS THE VERY MODEL OF A JAPANESE WOMAN...
MODEST AND LADY-LIKE
AND THEN, THAT TSUYUKI
I'D THOUGHT IT WAS GREAT THAT I'D COME TO JAPAN
. .....
BUT

CAN'T WE JUST BE...
FRIENDS?
I'M SO SORRY, DAVID
I'M HAPPY YOU FEEL THAT WAY, BUT...
IT'S OKAY, I UNDERSTAND!!
WE'LL BE GOOD FRIENDS, THEN!!
.....
SURE
...OH
I SEE...
WELL I GUESS IF THAT'S HOW IT IS
AAH, I'VE BEEN TURNED DOWN!!
I'LL JUST LOOK UP SO MY TEARS DON'T FLOW DOWN MY FACE...
AND GO HOME SINGING A CHEERFUL SONG!!
I CAN JUST TAKE ANYTHING OF YOURS, BUT...
I WON'T LET YOU TAKE ANYTHING OF MINE!
I WON'T ALLOW YOU LOWER-STATUS PEOPLE...
TO HARM MY HIGHER-STATUS SELF...

AND SO KILLING HER WAS...
IN THE END, A JUST DEFENSE!!
THAT WOMAN TOOK MY PRIDE...
HNNNNNNNN HNNNNNNNN HNNNNNNNN HNNNNNNNN HNNNNNNNN
HNNNNNNNN HNNNNNNNN HNNNNNNNN HNNNNNNNN HNNNNNNNN
I PROTECTED MY PRIDE!!
WITH THAT SUITABLY PERFECT MANNER OF DEATH...
AND FURTHERMORE, HAD THE RIGHT TO STRIKE HER DOWN WITH MY TRICK
I WORE HER DOWN MENTALLY WITH HARASSMENT ...
FOR SUCH LOWER-STATUS PEOPLE LIKE YOU TO TRY TO CATCH ME..
IS SOMETHING I WON'T ALLOW!!
NOW..
ALL OF YOU, OUTTA THE WAY!!

COMING TO A PLACE WHERE YOU THINK THE PEOPLE ARE LOWER-STATUS THAN YOU ARE...
JUST LIKE A MIDDLE-SCHOOLER WITHOUT A CLASSMATE TO PLAY WITH....
SUCH PRIDE IN THINKING YOU'RE SPECIAL....
SPLITTING UP THE ELEMENTARY KIDS' PLAYGROUND LIKE THE YOU'RE THE KING OF THE CASTLE
THAT'S ...
CHILDISH... OF YOU..
RATHER A LOWER-GRADE TRAIN OF THOUGHT
CERTAINLY, AS SHE SAID
HEH HEH HEH HEH
WHAT WAS THAT ?
SPEAKING OF YOU PURELY AS JUST ONE HUMAN BEING...
ARE JUST A LOW-STATUS PERSON AREN'T YOU?
IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH WHAT WORLD YOU'RE FROM...
AND FURTHERMORE, A PERSON THAT WOULD DO SUCH A THING AS KILL OUT OF SPITE OVER BEING TURNED DOWN...
YOU .....
INFERIOR BEASTS...


!!

WHAT, YOU THINK WE'RE SCARED OF A GUN!!
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, NELIRO!!

UNTIL MY STATUS FALLS!
YOU LOW-STATUS GUYS CAN'T SAY I'M LOWER-STATUS...
ゲゲゲ
YOU'RE JUST ASKING TO DIE, AREN'T YOU...!!
HOWEVER, SINCE YOU'RE ALL GATHERED HERE...

.....THAT JERK...
THA...
THAT'S MY TEACHER...
I COULD NEVER HOPE TO IMITATE HER...!!
SUCH DEFIANCE AGAINST A PERSON HOLDING A GUN...

ガチャガチャ

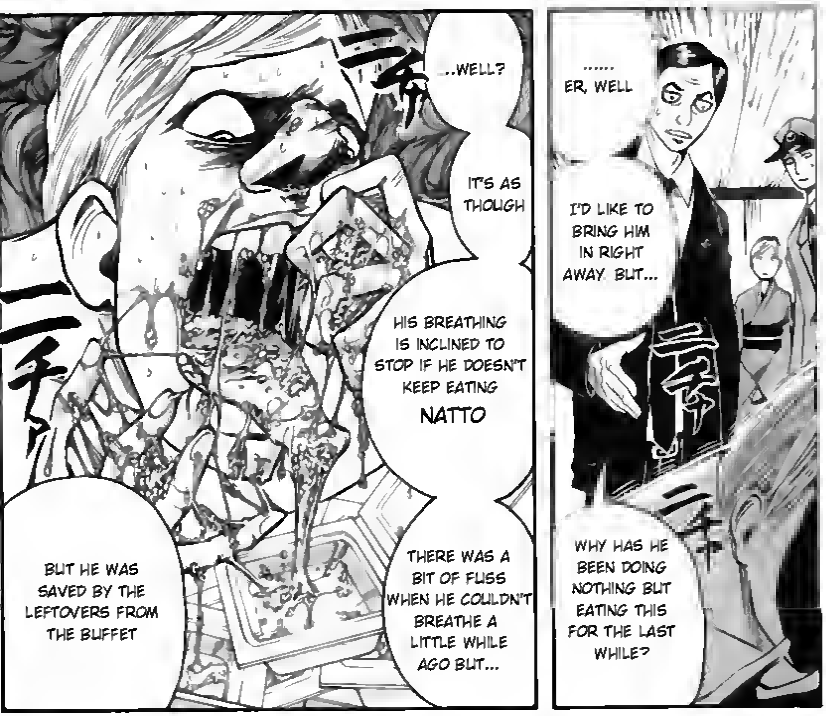
EEP
ズイッ

I WON'T LET YOU SAY I'M LOWER-STATUS AGAIN!!
BUT SURELY WITH TEACHER'S STRENGTH...
IT WILL BE EASY FOR HER TO DODGE THE BULLETS..
WHA... WAIT A...
NO NO NO
WHAT, SERIOUSLY?
?
DIE... I WON'T LET YOU
カチ
ゴッ

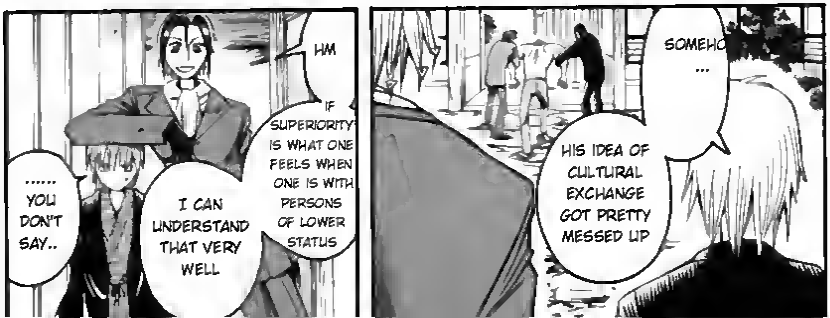
OW...
!?
ボトッ
!?
M-MY NOSE!!
!!
...HM ...
REGARDLESS OF WHETHER HE IS OF LOWER OR HIGHER STATUS
IS BEYOND MATTERS OF STATUS
THE POWER TO TURN A BULLET BACK UPON HIM WITH ONE FINGER...
YOU BROKE IT!

NOW NOW
DIDN'T IT JUST MISFIRE?
I FELT YOU MADE A SPLENDID TENGU... IT'S BEEN RUINED NOW THAT YOU'VE BROKEN YOUR NOSE
EVEN THOUGH...
OWWWWWWW
?
?
DAMN !!
OW, IT HURTS!!
AND IN THIS CASE THIS MILDLY ANNOYING MOUTH TOO
WHAT SAY WE TRY TO ACCLIMATIZE THEM TO THIS LOWER-STATUS WORLD THAT YOU SPOKE OF?
グニュウ
NO MATTER WHAT WORLD YOU ARE FROM, THE FIRST STEP IN CULTURAL EXCHANGE IS...
TO BECOME COMPLETELY AN INHABITANT OF THAT WORLD
WHAT DO YOU THINK, YOUR NEXT NOSE...

777 Tools of the Daemon World
EVIL BADGER
ブニュ
ブニュ
ブニュ
ブニュウ
……
IT IS AN INSECT FROM THE DAEMON WORLD WITH A VERY UNBALANCED DIET
FROM INSIDE THE STOMACH, IT CONTROLS THE BRAIN...
チュルン
TO DESIRE ONE AND ONLY ONE TYPE OF FOOD
THE THINGS IT LIKES VARY FROM INSECT TO INSECT, BUT
FAUGH
UGH
MGAAAAAAAH!!
NOW THE THING THAT YOU WILL HAVE UNENDING DESIRE FOR IS...

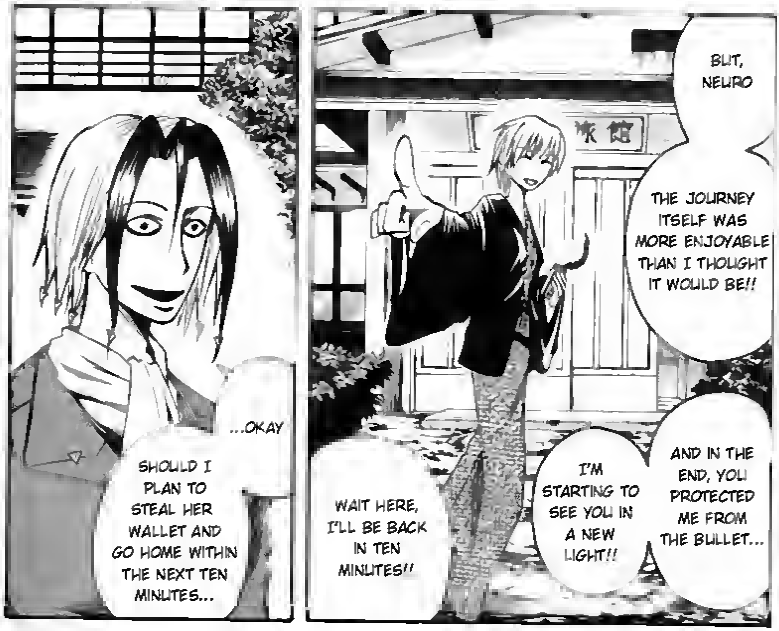

..WELL?
IT'S AS THOUGH
HIS BREATHING IS INCLINED TO STOP IF HE DOESN'T KEEP EATING NATTO
BUT HE WAS SAVED BY THE LEFTOVERS FROM THE BUFFET
THERE WAS A BIT OF FUSS WHEN HE COULDN'T BREATHE A LITTLE WHILE AGO BUT...
.....
ER, WELL
I'D LIKE TO BRING HIM IN RIGHT AWAY. BUT...
WHY HAS HE BEEN DOING NOTHING BUT EATING THIS FOR THE LAST WHILE?

DISGUSTING
SO DISGUSTING
BUT IF I STOP EATING, I'LL DIE
IN THIS WORLD OF OURS
WELL, I GUESS IT TAKES ALL KINDS, EH
WOW...


HM
IF SUPERIORITY IS WHAT ONE FEELS WHEN ONE IS WITH PERSONS OF LOWER STATUS
I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT VERY WELL
..... YOU DON'T SAY..
SOMEHO ...
HIS IDEA OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE GOT PRETTY MESSED UP

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DID TO HIM BUT
UP UNTIL A MOMENT AGO, HE SHOWED NO SYMPTOMS
BUT AFTER YOU TWO CAME NEAR HIM...
HIS INCLINATIONS SUDDENLY CHANGED...
IT COULD NOT POSSIBLY BE ANYTHING PHYSICAL
I DON'T UNDER-STAND HOW, BUT
YOU TWO THREW HIS BRAIN CONTROL SYSTEM INTO DISARRAY
AT THE VERY LEAST, YOUR REASONING A SHORT WHILE AGO WAS SUPERB
.....
THAT MAN IS USELESS BUT
YOUR BRAINS AND ABILITIES ARE QUITE FASCINATING
I'M A RESEARCHER AT THE UNIVERSITY HERE
IF YOU'RE IN THE AREA, DO STOP BY
AND PLEASE BE A PARTICIPANT IN MY EXPERIMENTS... HEH HEH HEH

AS THE MAN WHOSE GREAT RESEARCH WAS SUCCESSFUL
ON TV, PERHAPS
WELL, EXCUSE ME
THOUGH ...
EVEN IN THE TIME BEFORE THAT...
PERHAPS YOU WILL SEE MY NAME AND FACE, HARUKAWA EISUKE
...OH, THAT'S RIGHT!!
I HAVE TO GET IN THE ONSEN!!
IT'S MORNING ALREADY!!
WHAT'S WITH HIM
...?
WELL
WHAT
YOU HAVEN'T GIVEN UP ON THAT YET
I JUST WANT TO WASH OFF THE NASTY ATMOSPHERE LEFT BY THAT CASE, IN THE ONSEN!!
AND PUT AKANE IN THE WATER FOR DRINKING
?


BUT, NEURO
THE JOURNEY ITSELF WAS MORE ENJOYABLE THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE!!
AND IN THE END, YOU PROTECTED ME FROM THE BULLET...
I'M STARTING TO SEE YOU IN A NEW LIGHT!!
WAIT HERE, I'LL BE BACK IN TEN MINUTES!!
...OKAY
SHOULD I PLAN TO STEAL HER WALLET AND GO HOME WITHIN THE NEXT TEN MINUTES...

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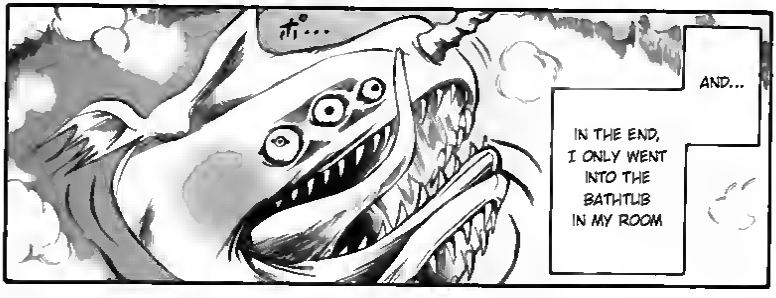
ポク
ポク
ポク
.....

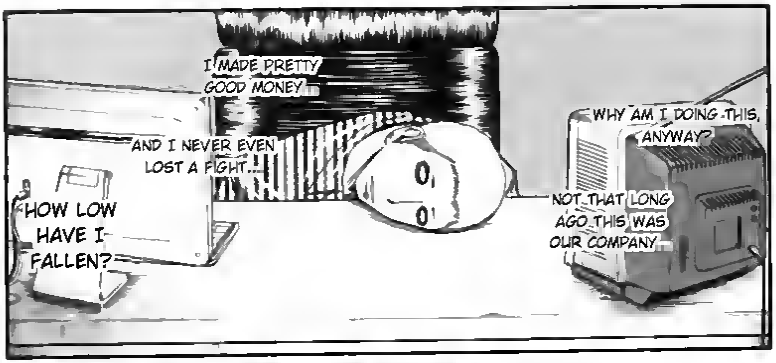
パタ
パタ
パ
ON~SEN~
ON~SEN~!!
ガラガラガラ
PARDON ME
BEFORE I GO IN, I'LL JUST TAKE A LITTLE PEEK
NEXT TO THE BUFFET, IT'S THIS RYOKAN'S SPECIALTY!!!
I BET THE VIEW FROM THE OPEN-AIR BATH IS GREAT, AKANE!!
チカブ…

IT LOOKS LIKE THIS ONSEN WILL HAVE A SHARP DECREASE IN CUSTOMERS SOON
M...
MIXED BATHING, AREA... IS IT...
THE DAEMON-WORLD FISH THAT NEIRO RELEASED IS SNAPPING AROUND, SO...


...
AND...
IN THE END, I ONLY WENT INTO THE BATHTUB IN MY ROOM

HOW'D THEY EVER THINK FOUR ONIGIRI WAS ENOUGH FOR TWO DAYS...
IF THEY AREN'T BACK SOON I'M GONNA KILL...
...IT'S HOPELESS

...AAAH...
SO HUNGRY...


I MADE PRETTY GOOD MONEY...
AND I NEVER EVEN LOST A FIGHT...
HOW LOW HAVE I FALLEN?
WHY AM I DOING THIS, ANYWAY?
NOT THAT LONG AGO THIS WAS OUR COMPANY...

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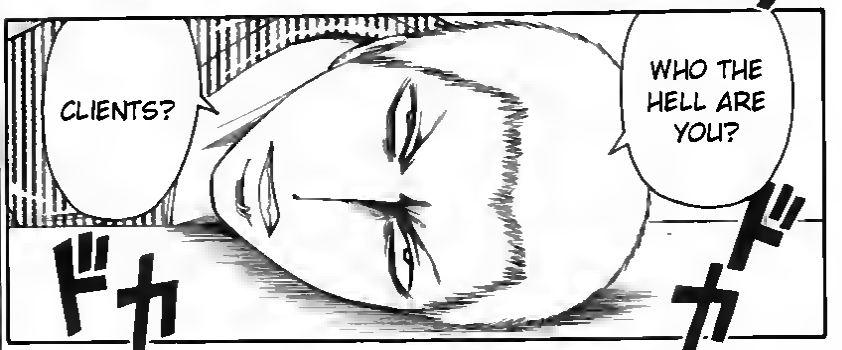
ドカ
ドカ
ドカ
HUH...?
THERE HAS TO BE SOME WAY TO GET THEM TO BACK DOWN
IT'S ALL THOSE TWO'S FAULT...
ドド
ガガ


CLIENTS?
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
ドカ
ドカ

EVEN MORE TYPOS THAT WEREN'T FIXED AND MISPRINTS

(WRONG): 生まない女王様

(RIGHT): 産まない女王蟻

TRANSLATION: ANONYMOUS EDITING: ANONYMOUS CLEANING: ANONYMOUS
DISTRIBUTE FREELY UNTIL LICENSED! TRANSLATIONS EXIST. ANONYMOUS DOES NOT FORGIVE!

CHAPTER 36 昔【PAST】

HOW DID IT GET TO BE AN INVESTIGATOR'S OFFICE?
.....H, THIS PLACE
IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, NOT LONG AGO...
IT WAS A 'PROPER' CONSUMER CREDIT BUSINESS
AND WHO THE HELL ARE YOU
WHAT'S IT TO YOU
I DON'T WANNA HAVE SOMEONE REMINDING ME OF OLD CRAP
.....
IT'S COLD, HERE
I DON'T WANT TO STAY LONG
LET'S GET THIS BUSINESS OVER WITH

WHAT'S WITH HIM?
WEARING A THICK COAT IN EARLY FALL
AND THE OTHER GUYS LOOK LIKE THEY EAT VIOLENCE FOR BREAKFAST
SOMETHING AIN'T RIGHT

SO IF YOU DON'T HAVE A CASE FOR THEM, PISS OFF
I DON'T WANNA HEAR ABOUT...
ANY OTHER KIND OF TROUBLE

.....

...AND, YOU...
WHERE ARE THE PEOPLE FROM THE OFFICE HERE?
HAH?
I DUNNO
I JUST GOT STUCK HERE UNDER THE CIRCUM-STANCES

TOLD YA, I DUNNO
WHY SHOULD I KNOW THEIR SCHEDULE
WE CAME TO DO A LITTLE SHOPPING AROUND
THAT WON'T DO
WHEN WILL THE INVESTIGATORS BE BACK?
HEY, PUNK
STOP THAT
WHAT'S WITH THAT ATTITUDE
グイ
PLAY NICE AND ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS
I GUESS YOU DIDN'T BRING ANY FOOD?
AH...
OR CIGS
I AIN'T GOT NOTHING BUT AN ASHTRAY
IF YOU GO BUY SOME, THEN I'LL LISTEN TO WHAT YOU'VE GOT TO SAY
AH...

ビ
YOU CAN TELL ME TO PLAY NICE ALL YOU WANT...
!?
ドサッ!
I JUST DON'T HAVE ANY STRENGTH AT ALL, I'M SO HUNGRY
ホ
イッ
SEE

はッ
ドー
！
I'M STARTIN' TO FEEL FAINT LIKE I'M GONNA PASS OUT...
ン00
00

.....
SO EVEN IF YOU TRY TO BUG ME ABOUT THE SUBJECT, I'M JUST GONNA GET PISSED OFF
WHAT, YOU GONNA JUST STAND THERE AND SMILE
ゴッ
HURRY UP AND STATE YOU BUSINESS
SO IF YOU GET WHAT MY WEAKENING SELF IS SAYING...
I REMEMBER NOW
YOU'RE GODAI?
GODAI SHINOBU, FROM SAOTOME FINANCIAL
A PRETTY FAMOUS GUY IN OUR LINE OF WORK
Y'SEE?
IF YOU DON'T, IT'S GONNA BE ALL OVER FOR YOU TOO

I WATCHED YOU DOING COLLECTION ONCE
YOU WERE PRETTY RUTHLESS, WEREN'T YOU
THANKS TO THAT, THE GUYS THERE WERE SCARED OF YOUR COMPANY
SO WHAT HAPPENED?
AFTER YOUR COMPANY DISAPPEARED...
YOU GOT TO PLAY SECRETARY FOR AND INVESTIGATOR'S OFFICE?
ISN'T THAT QUITE THE CHANGE OF PACE?
SHADDUP
A LOT OF STUFF HAPPENED
YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND EVEN IF I TOLD YOU
AH, BUT
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOTTEN SOFT
DON'T BE SO HOPELESSLY DEFIANT
...HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ...?

WHA...?
ゴッ..
OH WELL
AS YOU WISH, LET'S TALK BUSINESS
ズン
IT'S OUR BOSS, SEE
I UNDERSTAND HE WANTS TO HIRE THE INVESTIGATOR
AT GREAT EXPENSE, OF COURSE

BY THE WAY, MY NAME IS
...WELL, YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW MY FULL NAME
JUST REMEMBER "YUKI"
FIRST OF ALL, LET ME LEAVE THE PHONE NUMBER
TELL THEM TO PLEASE CONTACT HIM
WELL....
AND IF THEY DON'T CONTACT HIM, I'LL HAVE TO COME PAY YOU ANOTHER VISIT LIKE THIS
ヒラ
HEH HEH HEH
BUT YOU REALLY HAVE GOTTEN SOFT
.....
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO MAKE THIS AN INVESTIGATOR'S OFFICE, BUT
THE GODAI I REMEMBER WAS SCARY ENOUGH TO FRIGHTEN A SMALL CHILD INTO SHUTTING UP
HEY, WAKE UP
NOW, YOU COULDN'T EVEN SHUT UP A SMALL FRY LIKE THAT IF YOU TRIED WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT

YOU'VE COOLED DOWN
LOST YOUR TOUCH
HOW DID YOU GET STUCK UNDER THEIR THUMB?
GUH....
バタン
YOU TOOK MY WALLET AT THE RYOKAN, DIDN'T YOU!!
NEURO!!

FORGET ABOUT EMBARRASSMENT, IT'S MY PRIDE I'VE BEEN THROWING OUT THE WINDOW!!
SIMPLY TOSS ASIDE YOUR EMBARRASSMENTS FROM YOUR TRAVELS
BUT YOU ARE FINE NOW
GIVE BACK MY WALLET
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MANY TIMES I'VE HAD TO SAY "I'M SORRY" JUST TODAY!!

OH MY
THAT WAS FAST
YOU HAVE FINALLY RETURNED

AH...
I'M SORRY
HEY LADY, DON'T GET SO EXCITABLE IN THE MIDDLE OF TOWN

IT WAS TERRIBLE!!
I HAD TO RUN AROUND THE RYOKAN, THE POLICE STATION, EVEN THE TRAIN STATION WITH MY HEAD BOWED, BEGGING TO BORROW MONEY !!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HAD SUCH TROUBLE GETTING HOME!!

HM
PERHAPS HE HAS UNEXPECTEDLY DROPPED DEAD
DON'T SAY OMINOUS THINGS LIKE THAT
THERE'S NO WAY HE'D DIE SO EASILY...

AAH, I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE ANY MONEY TO BUY A SOUVENIR...
WAITING FOR US MUST HAVE MADE MR. GODAI REALLY HUNGRY

HE'S DEAD!!

SOME POTATO CHIPS!!
AH
MAYBE I CAN STILL REVIVE HIM IF I GIVE HIM A FEW
I-I KNOW

SUCH A TORTUOUSLY SUFFERING DEATH, HE WAS STARVING SO MUCH THAT HE'S COVERED IN BLOOD!!
G-GODAI!
……
ゆさ
ゆさ
ゆさ

THERE'S ONLY CRUMBS LEFT BUT
PLEASE, COME BACK TO LIFE!!
ピヨ
ピヨ
ピヨ

AH...
RIGHT...
THEY'RE KINDA... BLOODSHOT ...
NOW I CAN PRETTY MUCH OPEN MY EYES
THANKS
!?
ATTACKED ?
.....
THAT WASN'T IT AT ALL!!
I WAS ATTACKED!
YOU CHOSE TO STARVE SO BADLY THAT YOU HARMED YOURSELF
WHEN I ORDERED YOU TO NOT GO OUTSIDE...
BUT SURPRISINGLY ENERGETIC
HM
HOHO
IN OTHER WORDS, A CASE, CORRECT?
BUSINESS ...?
SOME WEIRD GUYS CAME BY, SAID THEY HAD SOME BUSINESS WITH YOU
YEAH
I GOT MOUTHY WITH THEM AND TOOK CARE OF A BUNCH...
THE LAST ONE PUT ME IN THIS CONDITION
WHAT, YOU THINK I KNOW
I'M SO PISSED OFF I DON'T EVEN WANNA REMEMBER!!
AND...
WHAT SORT OF CASE IS IT?

SHALL I ASK YOU AGAIN
カサカサ
IT'S
HM
WILL YOU TELL ME
...WHAT SORT... OF CASE IS IT?
ポテチ
THEY WERE CLEARLY UNDERWORLD GUYS
IT HAD THE HINT OF WANTING TO KEEP YOU ON RETAINER
THEIR BOSS WANTED TO HIRE YOU
HOW DID YOU GET STUCK UNDER THEIR THUMB?
GUH.....

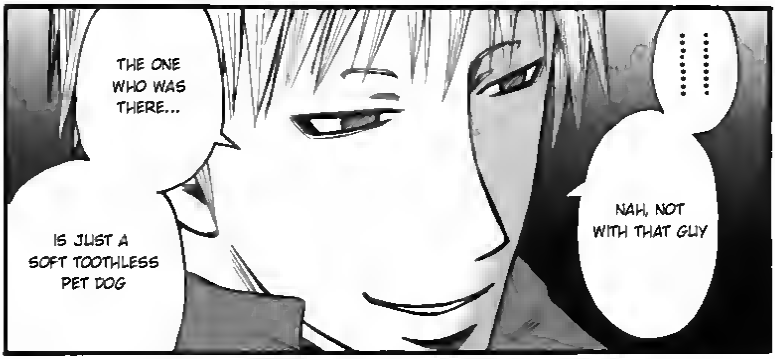
WHY WOULD THOSE PEOPLE...
LIKE THE COMPANY THAT USED TO BE HERE BEFORE, THAT GODA! WORKED FOR?
UNDERWORLD...?
I JUST FOUND MYSELF LIKE THIS
WHATEVER HE DID WAS A COMPLETE MYSTERY TO ME
...AS IF I KNOW..
WHAT DID HE DO TO YOU?
YOU'RE COVERED IN INJURIES
. .ANYWAY ...
...I TOLD YOU, I DON'T NEED IT
DON'T TOUCH ME
PLEASE, DON'T LEAVE
IT'S OKAY, PLEASE, DON'T MOVE
I CAN DO IT
SEE
DON'T NEED IT
WE'VE GOT A FIRST AID KIT (FOR MY USE)
JUST HOLD ON
IF WE DON'T DISINFECT THEM, THEY COULD GET WORSE
救急箱
カリ
ミャ
!!
THIS STUFF HAPPENING TO ME IS ALL YOUR FAULT FOR MAKING ME LOOK AFTER THE OFFICE...

WHAT THE FUCK IS THE MATTER WITH YOU!!
TRYING TO THREATEN ME
THEN TRYING TO CONSOLING ME!!
YEAH, YOU HEARD ME!!
I GOT LIKE THIS
ALL BECAUSE OF YOU!!
BOTH OF YOU...
HAVE MADE ME MISERABLE!!
I'M NOT GETTING INVOLVED WITH YOU EVER AGAIN!!
BOTH OF YOU MONSTERS CAN GO DIE!!
バ
タン!!

...!
PERHAPS HE IS HAUNTED BY MEMORIES OF HIS GOOD JOBS IN THE PAST
LET IT GO
...SINCE HE CALLED ME A MONSTER TOO
MR. GODAI... I REALLY MADE HIM MAD...
OF COURSE, THE TERMS HAVE YET TO BE SET BUT
AS FAR AS WE HAVE BEEN TOLD
IT SEEMS LIKE SOMEONE WOULD LIKE TO HIRE US ON RETAINER
IT MAY NOT BE A BAD CHOICE TO HAVE A PATRON
CAN SUPPLY ME WITH A STEADY SUPPLY OF "PUZZLES"...
IF THEY

GUIDE TO THINGS I'D LIKE TO SEE MADE INTO A PRODUCT #1: AFTERWORD

IMMEDIATELY AFTER YOU SPEAK, IT GOES "PSSSHHHHH"



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CHAPTER 37

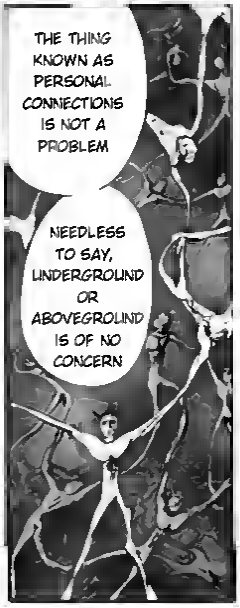
広【TOLERANCE】

BREADTH

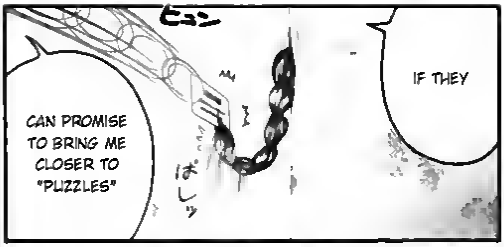
HOW'D I END UP LIKE THIS...
MY BLOOD IS BOILING...
THAT INVESTIGATOR...
SHIT!!
I DON'T HAVE EVEN A SCRAP OF INTEREST IN HER!!
EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM...
LOOKING AT ME LIKE I'M SOME KINDA WEAKLING
WHAT THE HELL IS WITH YOU!!
INVES-TIGATOR...?
I'M INTERESTED IN HER
ふーふー

BUT IT IS STILL FAR FROM PERFECT
THERE ARE FEW CASES THAT INCLUDE A "PUZZLE"
FROM THE BEGINNING, I OPENED THIS OFFICE...
TO ENSURE A STEADY SUPPLY OF FOOD...
SO THAT I WOULD NOT STARVE FOR "PUZZLES"
IF YOU WERE AN ORDINARY DETECTIVE...
THERE WOULD BE A CONSTANT STREAM OF THINGS TO INVESTIGATE
...BUT YOU DON'T SOLVE NORMAL PUZZLES
...
WELL, THAT'S TRUE
IT SEEMS THAT THESE UNDERWORLD FELLOWS...
ARE BACKED BY SOME ORGANIZATION
HM
WHAT YOU'RE AFTER IS...
THE MAZE THAT MAKES UP THE EVIL INTENT ..HENCE THE MEANING OF THE WORD "PUZZLE"...
YEAH, TRUE, THOSE HAVEN'T SHOWN UP

EVEN IF THEY THEMSELVES DO NOT HAVE ANY "PUZZLES"
JUST THE ABILITY TO OBTAIN INFORMATION WHICH CAN BE USED TO GET AT RUMORS OF "PUZZLES"...
THIS SORT OF ORGANIZATION COULD BE A GOOD CLIENT FOR ME


THE THING KNOWN AS PERSONAL CONNECTIONS IS NOT A PROBLEM
NEEDLESS TO SAY, UNDERGROUND OR ABOVEGROUND IS OF NO CONCERN

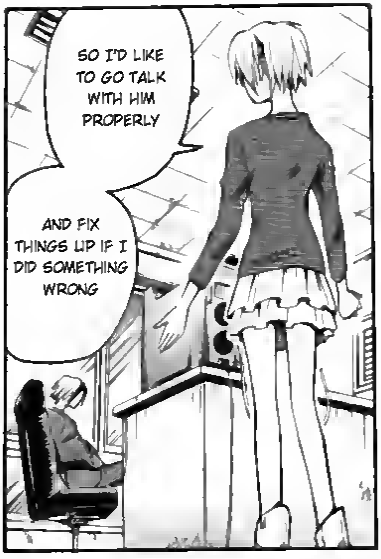
UNDERWORLD PEOPLE...
ODD JOBS...


IF THEY
CAN PROMISE TO BRING ME CLOSER TO "PUZZLES"
ばしッ

UNDERWORLD PEOPLE WILL NOT BE AN ISSUE
WE MAY EVEN LISTEN TO A FEW ODD JOBS WHERE THE CONTENTS OF THE CASE...
HAVE LITTLE TO DO WITH ANY "PUZZLE"

AH, WELL, NEURO
……
SINCE I DO NOT FEEL THE LEAST BIT OF A SCENT OF AN IMPENDING "PUZZLE"
EITHER WAY, IF WE JUST LEAVE IT, THEY MAY COME BACK TO US
ギシ…
SHOULD I GO LOOK FOR MR. GODAI
YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS, DO YOU?
HE WAS BEING HAUNTED BY THAT WEIRD BUG...
WHY LOOK FOR HIM
? ……
…UMM…
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE WAY HE THINKS ABOUT YOU, BUT
MAYBE I'M PART OF THE REASON HE'S ANGRY, TOO
SOME-THING...
WRONG ABOUT THE WAY I CAME INTO CONTACT WITH HIM, MAYBE...
SOMETHING ABOUT THE WAY HE GOT MAD EARLIER...
IT SEEMED DIFFERENT THAN USUAL

IT WOULD BE TROUBLE FOR YOU TOO, WOULDN'T IT?
IF HE STORMED OFF, REALLY MAD...
AND YOUR PRECIOUS ODD-JOB MAN LEFT?


SO I'D LIKE TO GO TALK WITH HIM PROPERLY
AND FIX THINGS UP IF I DID SOMETHING WRONG

ギク...
THIS IS TRUE
..... HIM

THE MORE STRONGLY IT WILL STICK UP IN RESPONSE
THE CLOSER YOU GET TO HIM...
YOUR FINGER WILL BECOME THE ANTENNA
ﾍﾟﾀ

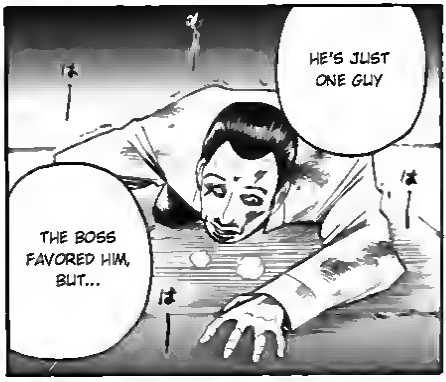
THEN, I SHALL LEND YOU A DETECTION DEVICE TO SEARCH FOR HIM
STICK THIS ON YOUR FINGER
777 Tools of the Daemon World: EVIL STICKER

THANKS
...GREAT

YUKI
DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?
MR. HAYA-SAKA
AS USUAL, WEARING HEAVY CLOTHING, EVEN INDOORS
JUST LOOKING AT IT MAKES ME FEEL OVERHEATED
....NAAAH
WINTER'S ON ITS WAY, RIGHT
I'M USED TO IT
AH, IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE GETTING READY FOR
THE BOSS GAVE HIS ORDERS
I HEAR THERE'S ALREADY A LITTLE JOB FOR YOU TO DO
..... SIGH

NOW WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THIS GUY THAT'S LEAKING OUR SECRETS

THAT'S WHY, YUKI
WE CAN'T HAVE HIM AROUND, FOR THE BOSS'S SAKE


HE'S JUST ONE GUY
THE BOSS FAVORED HIM, BUT...

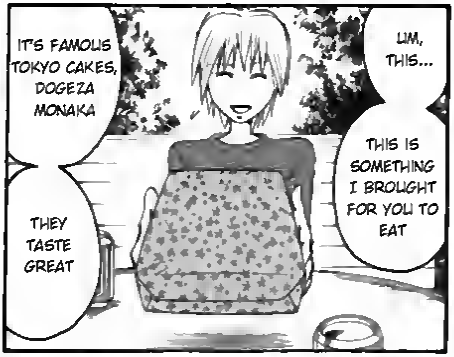
SEE, LOOK AT THE THINGS HE'S SAYING
PLEASE, FORGIVE ME!!
I WON'T SAY ANYTHING TO ANYBODY!!
IF HE'S A THREAT, I CAN SHUT HIM UP?

...EEEH...
HE DOESN'T LOOK THAT IMPORTANT, BUT

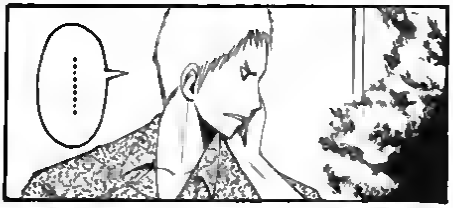
ALTHOUGH I COULD JUST FORGIVE YOU
...YES, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT
IT'S SO THAT THE BOSS CAN SLEEP SOUNDLY
I HAVEN'T LEFT HERE SINCE NOON
I JUST TOOK AN EMPTY SEAT AND...
..SHIIIIIIT..

M...
MR. GODAI
I FINALLY FOUND YOU...
..... HAA?
WHAT DO YOU WANT NOW..
ビィィィ
UM... ABOUT THIS...
AH
SORRY...
OH YEAH...? I GET THE FEELING YOUR FINGER SAYS IT ALL
THE SITUATION LOOKS LIKE YOU FOLLOWED ME TO PICK A FIGHT, ANY WAY I LOOK AT IT
WHEN I GET CLOSE...
....NO
IT JUST STICKS UP

.....


UM, THIS...
THIS IS SOMETHING I BROUGHT FOR YOU TO EAT
IT'S FAMOUS TOKYO CAKES, DOGEZA MONAKA
THEY TASTE GREAT

ARE YOU GONNA EAT THEM ...?
GO AHEAD AND EAT IT!!


.....

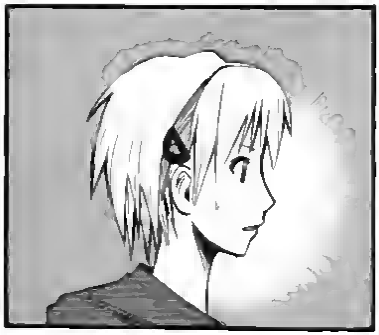
....MR GODA!
I'M NOT LISTENING
ALL THE ODD-JOBS I'VE DONE UP UNTIL NOW..
WERE BECAUSE I WAS BEING TOLERANT

DRIVING PEOPLE TO AN INCH AWAY FROM STARVATION
AND NOW BRINGING SWEETS TO APOLOGIZE
YOU'RE PRETTY BUSY ROAMING AROUND

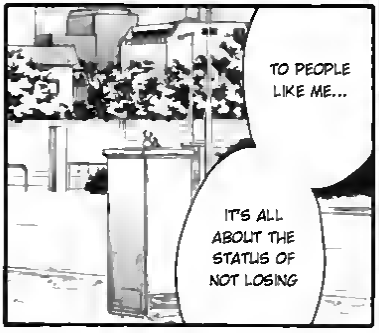
YEAH...
BUT...
WHAAAAT
AND BEING TOLERANT, I LET YOU GUYS RUN ALL OVER ME
IT'S NATURAL I'D JUST SNAP
THAT IT WAS OUR FAULT... THAT YOU YOURSELF GOT TO BE TOLERANT...
IS ALSO WHAT I FELT YOU WERE ANGRY ABOUT
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT...
THE WAY YOU GOT ANGRY JUST THEN...
PROBABLY MORE THAN YOU WOULD HAVE BEFORE ...
BUT INSIDE OF YOURSELF...
ME, WELL
I THINK IT'S NICE THAT YOU LISTEN TO THE SELFISH THINGS WE ASK OF YOU
MORE THAN YOU DID WHEN I MET YOU AND
I WONDER IF YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO WHO YOU WERE BACK IN THE OLD DAYS
.....

...WHAT'S UP, BOSS
YOU'RE NOT GONNA TELL ME I WENT TOO FAR OR SOMETHING ARE YA
HEEEEEY
FLASHY FIRST JOB THERE... GODA!
NAH
YOU'RE A NATURAL AT THIS BUSINESS
THAT'S WHY
IN GENERAL, THE VIRTUOUS AND ADULT RESPONSE IS...
TO FORBID IT
IF THEY SEE AN OPPORTUNITY THEY RUN OFF
OR TRY TO LASH OUT AND ATTACK US. EITHER ONE
THE CUSTOMERS WE'VE GOT CIRCLING AROUND AT OUR COMPANY
EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM ISN'T SO GREAT
バキ

IF THEY SAY PLEASE FORGIVE ME REPLY "NO FUCKING WAY"
IF THEY SAY CAN'T WE TALK ABOUT THIS YOU SAY "AIN'T NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT"
WELL...
IT'S ACTUALLY A BIT MORE COMPLICATED BUT
THE ACT OF COMING IN AND THROWING THEM ALL AROUND LIKE YOU'VE DONE SO FAR
THAT'S VIRTUE AS FAR AS OUR WORLD IS CONCERNED
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THOSE SHOULD BE EASY ENOUGH GUIDELINES FOR AN IDIOT LIKE YOU TO FOLLOW?
AH?
THE PERFECT BUSINESS FOR YOU, HUH
.....
MR. GODAI...?



YOU GET IT, DON'TCHA
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE JUST A BRAT


TO PEOPLE LIKE ME...
IT'S ALL ABOUT THE STATUS OF NOT LOSING

EVEN THOUGH IT'S A GOOD THING IN YOUR WORLD...
IN MY WORLD, IT'S UNFORGIVABLE
GETTING TOLERANT IS...
TO ME, LIKE ACCEPTING THAT YOU'VE LOST

FUCKIN' KILLED THAT GUY WITHOUT EVEN TRYING TO TALK TO HIM
NOT THAT LONG AGO, I WOULDA...

I CAN'T BE TOLERANT
THERE'S NO PLACE FOR ME THERE
BEING TIED DOWN BY SUPERNATURAL POWERS THAT I DON'T HAVE A CLUE ABOUT...
MUCH LESS BEING PITIED FOR BEING WEAK
I SAID IT BEFORE, BUT
I'LL DECIDE WHO I WORK FOR, MYSELF
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE WORKING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS .....IS WHAT HE'D SAY
I BET HE WOULDA SAID THE SAME THING AS THAT GUY WEARING THE HEAVY CLOTHES
IF THE BOSS WAS ALIVE...
WAIT A MI-...
MR. GODAI...
..... WHAT

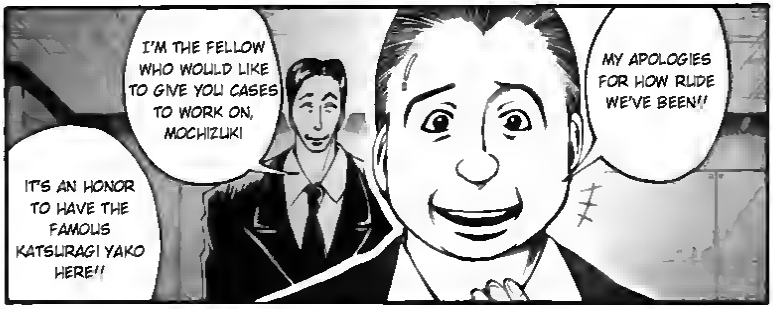
THERE WASN'T...
ANYTHING MORE I COULD SAY
FROM HERE ON, HE WOULDN'T HELP NEURO AND I ANY MORE

THE SMILE THAT OUGHT TO HAVE COME EASILY TO HIS FACE UP UNTIL NOW...
WAS THE LONELIEST EXPRESSION, I FELT

THEY TOOK US IN THEIR CAR
AFTER THE PEOPLE THAT HE'D TALKED ABOUT APOLOGIZED FOR THEIR RUDENESS THE OTHER DAY...
.....AND THEN, THE NEXT DAY

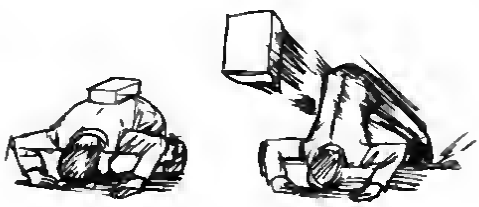
ガコン
TO THE ONE WHO WANTED TO HIRE US...
THE PLACE THEIR BOSS WAS AT
AND THE PLACE WE WENT TO WAS, OF COURSE...

WHY HELLO, SO GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT!!


I'M THE FELLOW WHO WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU CASES TO WORK ON, MOCHIZUKI
MY APOLOGIES FOR HOW RUDE WE'VE BEEN!!
IT'S AN HONOR TO HAVE THE FAMOUS KATSURAGI YAKO HERE!!

IN THE END, COULD I ACCEPT THE PEOPLE STANDING IN FRONT OF ME?
AND BE SATISFIED WORKING FOR THEM....
OH NO NO
TEACHER WAS SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING
WHAT WAS GOING ON WITH NEURO

HOW TO HAND OVER DOGEZA MONAKA



(TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: DOGEZA = KNEELING ON THE GROUND, AND MOCHUU (ANOTHER WAY TO READ THE KANJI FOR 'MONAKA') = MIDDLE)

CHAPTER 38

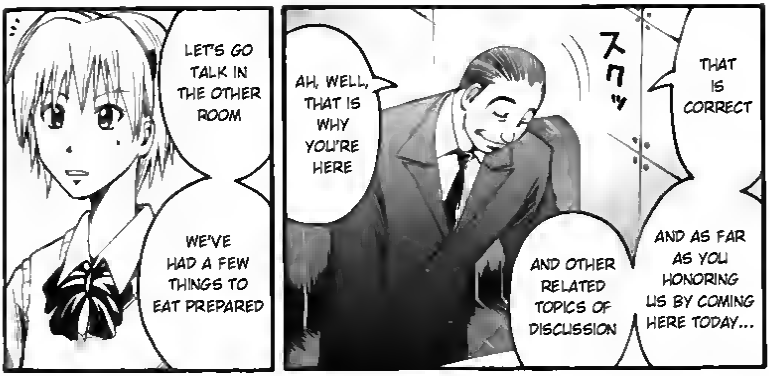
顔【FACE】

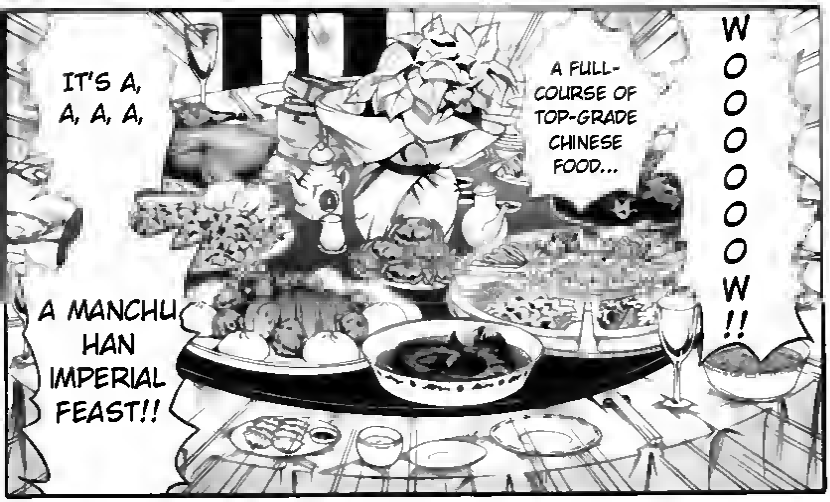
WHY DO I HAVE TO EAT FIREFLIES?
YAKO

TO PUT IT BRIEFLY, THE BUSINESS WE DEAL IN IS...
INFORMATION
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT TYPE OF INFORMATION
FROM INDIVIDUAL PIECES TO ALL OF A COMPANY'S ILLEGAL ACCOUNTS
IF SOMEONE MAKES A REQUEST
WE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATE AND REPORT BACK TO THE CLIENT
A SORT OF INVESTIGATION BUSINESS LIKE YOURSELVES...
IS RATHER RELATED TO A BUSINESS SUCH AS OURS, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
PRIVATE RESEARCH AGENCY GENERAL MANAGER
HAYASAKA HISANORI
PRIVATE RESEARCH AGENCY DIRECTOR
MOCHIZUKI TATEO

HIS GROUP...
IS ASSIGNED TO DEAL WITH THINGS OUR COMPANY FINDS TO BE A LITTLE BOTHERSOME
AND DUE TO THAT, THEIR CONDUCT ENDS UP BEING A BIT ROUGHER
WE'RE TERRIBLY, TERRIBLY SORRY
FOR HIS AND HIS SUB-ORDINATES' RUDENESS
.....
BOTHER-SOME...?
I SEE
SINCE YOU ARE IN THE POSITION TO HOLD MANY SECRETS...
VIOLENCE AND FORCE ARE NECESSARY AS PROTECTIVE COUNTER-MEASURES
YES
THOUGH IT'S AGAINST OUR BETTER JUDGEMENT, WE...
ARE ALSO IN A BUSINESS THAT MAKES A LOT OF ENEMIES

TRANSLATION: ANONYMOUS. EDITING: ANONYMOUS. CLEANING: ANONYMOUS
DISTRIBUTE FREELY UNTIL LICENSED TRANSLATIONS EXIST. ANONYMOUS DOES NOT FORGIVE!


LET'S GO TALK IN THE OTHER ROOM
WE'VE HAD A FEW THINGS TO EAT PREPARED
スッ
AH, WELL, THAT IS WHY YOU'RE HERE
THAT IS CORRECT
AND OTHER RELATED TOPICS OF DISCUSSION
AND AS FAR AS YOU HONORING US BY COMING HERE TODAY...


IT'S A, A, A, A,
A MANCHU HAN IMPERIAL FEAST!!
A FULL-COURSE OF TOP-GRADE CHINESE FOOD...
WOOOOOOOW!!

MISS KATSU-RAGI
WE KNOW OF YOUR LOVE OF GOURMET FOOD
SO WE THOUGHT IT WOULD ONLY BE APPROPRIATE

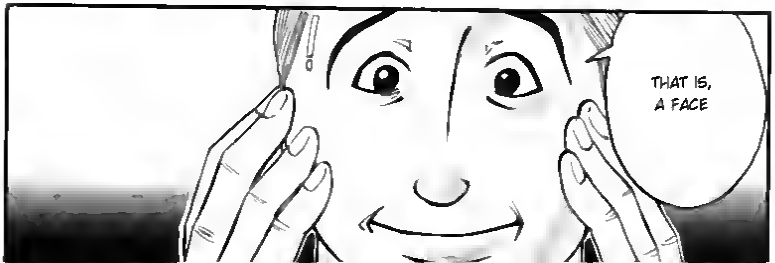
IT'S OUR BUSINESS TO EXCEL AT GATHERING RUMORS

ARE YOU SURPRISED?
.....
PERHAPS THIS INFORMATION ISN'T KNOWN TO THE MEDIA OR EVEN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

OF COURSE, IT'S NOT JUST RUMORS THAT WE'VE HEARD
WE HAVE EARS ALL OVER THE WORLD SO THAT WE CAN LEARN MORE

IN THIS WAY
BY GATHERING ALL KINDS OF INFORMATION, OUR COMPANY CAN GROW, BUT...
THERE'S ONE THING WE DON'T HAVE TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP UP IN GROWTH

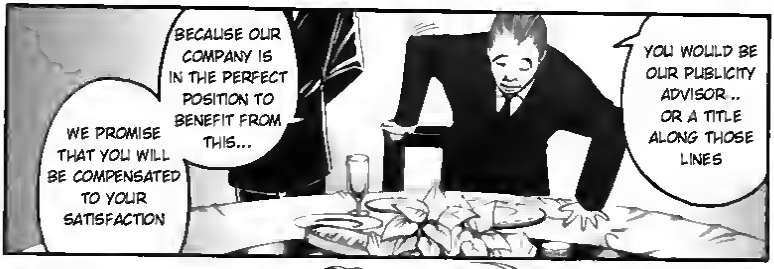
RECENTLY OUR SUBORDINATES RECIEVED INFORMATION FROM A NUMBER OF WOMEN...
WE HEAR YOU WERE ACTIVELY INVOLVED...
IN THE ARREST OF THE BOMBER "HISTERRIER" WEREN'T YOU?


THAT IS, A FACE

どん
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU...
WANT TO USE TEACHER'S AUGUST FACE FOR YOUR ADVERTISMENTS!!
I SEE!!
...
THE POWER TO COLLECT INFORMATION
WE HAVE THE POWER
EVEN IF ILLEGAL MEANS ARE SOMETIMES USED...
YES!!
AND THAT'S WHY WE CALLED FOR YOU!!
HER TRACK RECORD, COMBINED WITH HER AS A HIGH-SCHOOL GIRL INVESTIGATOR
MISS KATSURAGI IS PERFECT
AND HER REAL FACE IS...
.....
WELL... NOT BAD
IT'S POSSIBLE TO ACQUIRE IT...
THERE IS INFORMATION IN THE WORLD THAT CANNOT BE OBTAINED WITH POWER ALONE
BUT
IN OTHER WORDS, A FACE
WITH A GREATER LEVEL OF TRUST AND FAME WORLDWIDE

YOU COULD SAY THAT TEACHER IS A PANDA TO BRING IN THE CUSTOMERS
I UNDERSTAND
... MHMM ...
NOT A BAD WAY TO PUT IT

IF YOU USED YOUR WELL-RESPECTED VOICE IN THE ABOVEGROUND WORLD...
WE WOULD EVEN BE ABLE TO COLLECT FROM THIS WIDE WORLD OF OURS...
THE INFORMATION THAT IS DIFFICULT FOR OUR UNDERWORLD CONTACTS TO GATHER


YOU WOULD BE OUR PUBLICITY ADVISOR.. OR A TITLE ALONG THOSE LINES
BECAUSE OUR COMPANY IS IN THE PERFECT POSITION TO BENEFIT FROM THIS...
WE PROMISE THAT YOU WILL BE COMPENSATED TO YOUR SATISFACTION

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK?
CAN WE...
GIVE WORKING TOGETHER A TRY?

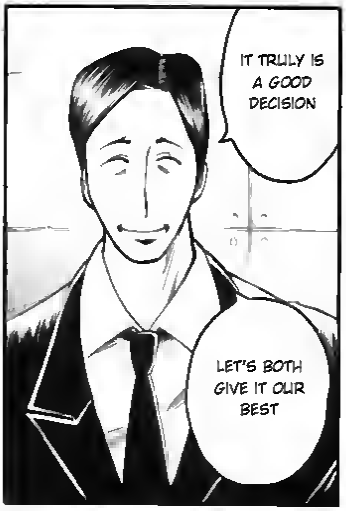
AND MORE IMPORTANTLY... EVEN THOUGH THE FACE THESE PEOPLE ARE SHOWING ME RIGHT NOW IS BENIGN
THEY HAD MR GODAI BEAT UP
I DON'T WANT TO BE CONNECTED TO PEOPLE LIKE THAT
EVEN THOUGH IT'S PROBABLY TRUE...
IT'S NEURO'S FAULT THAT I ROSE TO THIS LEVEL OF FAME
I DON'T WANT TO DO A TERRIBLE JOB OF THINGS AND STAND OUT.

I'M BUSY ENOUGH ALREADY WITH JUST NEURO!!
.. NO, NO WAY!!
I DON'T WANT TO BE CONNECTED TO ANY MORE TROUBLE

.. BUT IF I DON'T GO ALONG WITH THEM, I WON'T GET TO EAT THIS IMPERIAL FEAST...
AAH I WANT TO MAKE THE TABLE SPIN AROUND

I'LL JUST HAVE TO SWALLOW BACK MY TEARS AND STAY STRONG!!
NEURO, WE'RE LEAVING...
<3

WE ACCEPT!!
GWEH


IT TRULY IS A GOOD DECISION
LET'S BOTH GIVE IT OUR BEST

OH, SUCH A QUICK DECISION !!
MAKE NO MISTAKE, THAT'S THE MOMENTUM OF THE UP-AND-COMING !!
OH, PLEASE!!
TEACHER LOVES TO BE TRIFLED WITH BY GREATER POWERS
<3
<3ーん

AND IN EXCHANGE FOR SOME OF YOUR FAME RUBBING OFF ON US
WE CAN GIVE YOU AMPLE REWARD YOU WITH
INFORMATION TO SUPPORT YOUR INVESTIGATION BUSINESS

.....
OH MY!!
IF ANYTHING REACHES YOUR EARS, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS!
WITH YOUR HELP IT SHOULD BE EASY TO AQUIRE
INFORMATION TO GET INTO THE MAZE OF OUR CASES
GREAT
OF COURSE TEACHER IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THAT
?
AND ONE MORE THING
SURE, SURE
SO ABOUT THAT...
WOULD YOU MIND KEEPING IT A SECRET FROM EVERYONE ...!!
WE COULD TAKE THE TROUBLE TO EMPLOY A GREAT INVESTIGATOR
BUT WE'D LIKE TO PREPARE A GRAND DEBUT FOR OUR COMPANY

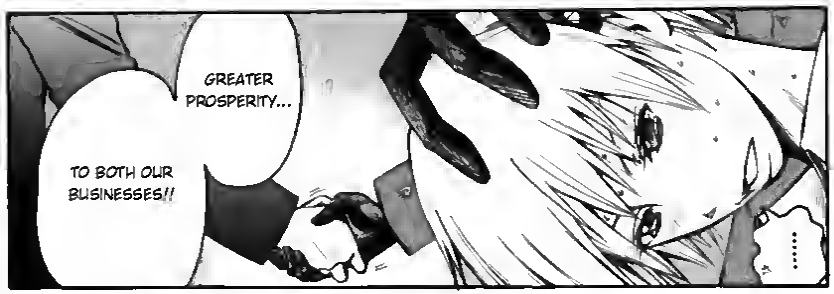
THE OTHER PEOPLE WHO CAME TO WELCOME US....
.....
WERE PEOPLE LIKE HIM, TOO, CONTRACTED TO DO UNDERWORLD BUSINESS
OF COURSE WE UNDERSTAND
EVEN WHEN WE CAME TO THIS COMPANY...
YOU INTENTIONALLY BROUGHT US TO THE LESS-FREQUENTED BACK DOOR
TRULY, YOU'RE UNDERWORLD, ALL THE WAY THROUGH
AFTER THIS, NO MATTER WHAT OTHER UNDERWORLD BUSINESS WE SEE, IT WILL BE NO MYSTERY
...IS WHAT TEACHER TOLD ME JUST A SHORT WHILE AGO
DON'T BE ABSURD
WE SIMPLY WANT TO PLAN AN INNOCENT SURPRISE...

COLD, ISN'T IT
HEY...
...YUKI!!
THAT'S RUDE!!
SOMEHOW, YOU'RE NOT SO HAPPY, ARE YA
...OHO?
A MERE EMPLOYEE, ARE YOU NOT?
BUSINESS NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD PASS RIGHT OVER YOUR HEAD BUT...
THIS ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU?
YOU DIDN'T HESITATE BUT
YOUR FACE SAYS IT ALL

ガッ
YOU DON'T KNOW WHO YOU'RE DEALING WITH

...YES!! AS FOR THE DETAILS OF THE CONTRACT ....
WE'LL CONTACT YOU ABOUT THAT SOON!!

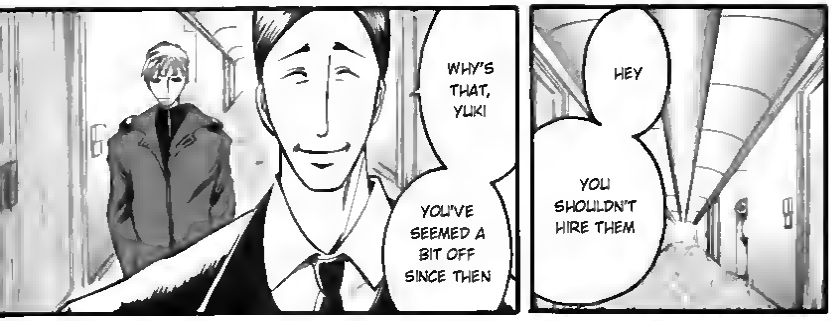
NOW THEN!!
THE NEGOTIA-TIONS ARE COMPLETE, CORRECT


GREATER PROSPERITY...
TO BOTH OUR BUSINESSES!!
.....

WHY DID YOU ACCEPT!!
THOSE SUSPICIOUS GUYS AS CLIENTS!!

YOU JUST TWISTED MY NECK ...
A TWISTED-UP LOSS!!
AND YOU MIGHT HAVE NOTICED, I'M OUTSIDE OF THE COMPANY!!
FORGET ABOUT ACCEPTING THEIR OFFER, I DIDN'T EVEN GET TO EAT ANY OF THE CHINESE FOOD!!

FIRST OF ALL!!
DID THAT COMPANY SMELL LIKE THERE WAS A "PUZZLE" !?
YOU'D KNOW IF THERE WAS A "PUZZLE", RIGHT?
IN ALL OF THE INFORMATION THOSE PEOPLE DEAL WITH!!
HM
I WILL NOT BE HELD BACK FROM MY SOURCES OF FOOD IN THIS WORLD
SO YOU MAY CUT YOUR SPEECH SHORT
...WELL
WE ONLY HAVE TO DEAL WITH
THE WORK WE ARE CONTRACTED TO DO
ALWAYS, NO MATTER WHAT I DO...
I END UP BEING USED IN THIS ONE-SIDED RELATIONSHIP
...IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS
BUT EVEN IF I WANT TO TREMBLE, I WON'T
I END UP THINKING OF HOW I COULD BE TREMBLING...
WITHOUT MR. GODAI AROUND...


WHY'S THAT, YUKI
YOU'VE SEEMED A BIT OFF SINCE THEN
HEY
YOU SHOULDN'T HIRE THEM

BUT
THE MAN THAT CALLS HIMSELF HER ASSISTANT IS DANGEROUS
FOR A SPLIT SECOND, I FELT THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING STRANGE
THE INVESTIGATOR IS JUST A NOVICE BRAT
WE DON'T HAVE TO WATCH OUT FOR HER

BREAKING IN ON THE BOSS'S DECISIONS
SINCE WHEN WERE YOU THAT SORT OF CHILD
WHEN HE PUT HIS HAND ON ME, I--
HONESTLY, WHAT'S WRONG, YUKI

WATCH WHAT YOU SAY
THIS IS THE WORKPLACE
.....
SORRY
OH, SPEAKING OF THE WORKPLACE, YUKI
!
YOU SAID YOU WANTED AN ADDITIONAL MEMBER FOR YOUR TROUBLE SQUAD?
...AH
YEAH
I'VE GOT NOTHING BUT USELESS GUYS
THEY CAN OBEY, BUT
I DON'T TRUST THEM TO PROTECT THE BOSS WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO THE CRUNCH

I KNOW
JUST THE FELLOW
.....?
I'VE AQUIRED INFORMATION ABOUT HIM, TOO
PERFECT FOR THE JOB, ISN'T HE?
THE BASIS OF HIRING IS, THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE RIGHT JOB
HE'S A BIT, HOW WOULD I PUT IT, PRICKLY... ..BUT
WE'LL BRING HIM TO OUR COMPANY
A MAN LIKE HIM...
IS TOO GOOD TO BE WORKING IN AN INVESTIGATOR'S OFFICE

HOLDING
HIS BREATH

CHAPTER 39 反【BETRAYAL】
OPPOSE

LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT THE NEWS OR SOMETHING
AH
IT'S NO GOOD AT THIS TIME OF DAY
NOTHING BUT ADS BETWEEN THE SHOWS
EVEN THE SHOWS ARE LIKE ADS, REALLY

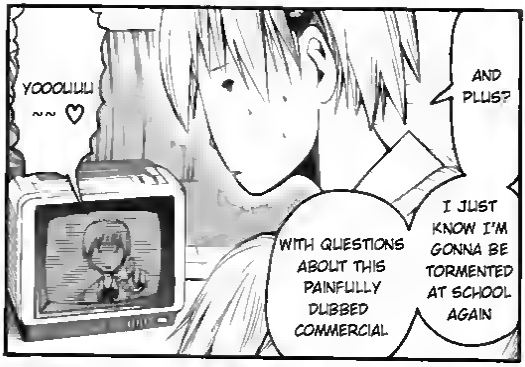
SEMPAI, LET'S MAKE PLASTIC MODELS
ALL THE CASES WE WERE TAKING CARE OF GOT WRAPPED UP IN ONE SHOT
..WELL
WHEN YOU FINISH, I'LL BREAK THEM

"ELECTRIC FORESTER BIRIJAN"'S CHAINSAW IS ROARING
INSTEAD, SINCE IT'S 6.30...
GOING BRRM, BRRM AT THOSE STUPID RADICAL ENVIRONMENTALIST GROUPS...

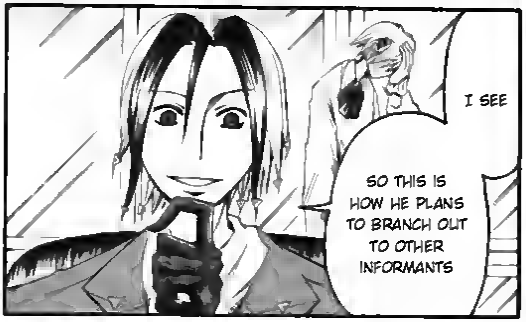
TRANSLATION: ANON/MOUSE EDITING: ANON/MOUSE CLEANING: ANON/MOUSE
DISTRIBUTE FREELY UNTIL LICENSED! TRANSLATIONS EXIST: ANON/MOUSE DOES NOT FORGIVE!

CHAPTER 39 反 OPPOSE 【BETRAYAL】
THE CRIMINAL IS...
YOOOOUUU ~~~~♡
ガシャ

THE FAMOUS INVESTIGATOR, KATSURAGI YAKO IS...
WE'RE NOW IN THE MIDDLE OF A CAMPAIGN!!
LOOKING FOR INFORMATION FROM YOU!!
AND WE'LL INVESTIGATE IT WITH A SMILE AND CONFIDENCE!!
TALK TO US ABOUT ANYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW!!
FIND OUT MORE ONLINE!!
MOCHIZUKI TRUST GENERAL RESEARCH
.....
MOCHIZUKI...?
SOMETHING'S WEIRD ABOUT THE TENSION IN THAT AD!!


YOOOUUU ~~ ♡
AND PLUS?
I JUST KNOW I'M GONNA BE TORMENTED AT SCHOOL AGAIN
WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS PAINFULLY DUBBED COMMERCIAL

I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY MADE THAT COMMERCIAL SO SUDDENLY...
IT WAS REALLY A SURPRISE...


I SEE
SO THIS IS HOW HE PLANS TO BRANCH OUT TO OTHER INFORMANTS

WELL...
AS LONG AS MY GOALS AND THEIR GOALS ARE MUTUALLY PROFITABLE
I SHALL LET THEM DO AS THEY WISH

BUT
UP TO THIS POINT, YOU HAVE BEEN PLAYING THE ROLE OF A VERY ORDINARY MASCOT
AFTER THEY TOOK THE TROUBLE TO MAKE SECRET NEGOTIATIONS UNDER THE TABLE...
IN THE END, THIS WAS THEIR ONLY SURPRISE?

.....
...BUT THE ONLY ONE WHO DOESN'T GET TO DO WHAT THEY WANT IS ME

'SCUSE ME
ガチャ
OH
MR. SASAZUKA
KATSURAG
DAEMON WORLD I
コン
コン
!!
N .. NO...
THERE WERE A BUNCH OF CONFLICTING CIRCUM-STANCES...
ぎゅう
I SAW YOU ON TV
I WASN'T EXPECTING TO SEE YOU IN A COMMERCIAL LIKE THAT
BUT THAT MR. MOCHIZUKI ...
WHAT HE'S DONE HAS BEEN VERY DARING
AN INVESTIGATOR ON THEIR BILLBOARDS ...RIGHT
WELL, CERTAINLY ...
YOU'RE NOT MUCH OF A TV PERSONALITY, SO HE MUST HAVE BEEN PERSUASIVE
...?
YOU KNOW HIM?

WHEN HE WAS STILL IN THE SERVICE, HE MADE CONNECTIONS AND GAINED EXPERIENCE
IT'S NOT UNCOMMON FOR PEOPLE TO LAUNCH SECURITY COMPANIES OR RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS AFTER RETIREMENT, BUT
THE COMPANY THAT MR. MOCHIZUKI BUILT...
WAS A HUGE LEAP AHEAD OF THE OTHERS
YEAH
HE'S ONE OF THE OLD BOYS FROM THE POLICE
!
SINCE HE HAS A SUBSIDIARY NETWORK AT THE NATIONWIDE LEVEL...
DON'T SAY THIS TOO LOUDLY BUT
EVEN THE POLICE OFTEN CAME TO HIM TO ASK FOR HELP
THE INFORMATION THAT COMPANY HAS IS UNUSUALLY USEFUL
...BECAUSE IT'S GOTTEN SO LARGE, BUT
IT'S TOO UNNATURALLY USEFUL
BUT
BE CAREFUL, YAKO

I HAVEN'T HEARD VERY GOOD RUMORS...
FROM THE PLACES I ASK AROUND AT
MANAGEMENT DOESN'T SUSPECT, BUT
DON'T GET TOO INVOLVED WITH HIM
THE MAN'S REAL INTENTION IS TO MAKE HIS COMPANY LARGER BUT..
YEAH
WE'VE BOUGHT LOTS OF INFORMATION FROM HIM BEFORE, TOO
THAT'S TRUE, ISN'T IT
BY THE WAY, HAYASAKA
THAT FREE-LANCER, SHINOHARA ...
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM LATELY
HIS IDEAS WERE MORE OR LESS ON THE RIGHT TRACK
"IF THERE'S NO INFORMATION, I'LL MAKE IT UP"
"THE TRUTH ISN'T NECESSARY"

ACTING FROM HERE
EVEN JUST KNOWING THAT FAMOUS INVESTIGATOR
IS AN EXCELLENT WAY TO MAKE THE MOST OF OUR INFORMATION
THERE'S FACTS, AND THERE'S LIES...
THE VALUE OF THE INFORMATION WE AQUIRE
IS MANY TIMES DIFFERENT ACCORDING TO WHO CONTROLS IT
BUT THAT ALONE IS ONLY HALF OF IT
...FUFUFU
IT'S JUST AS YOU SAY
ALL RIGHT...
I MAY TRY TO CONTROL SOME INFORMATION TOO...
SURE
I'LL GO CONDUCT THE INTERVIEW
SINCE IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR THE PERSON I CALLED IN TO BE HERE
...NOW THEN

AH
I SEE YOU CAME
GODAI
WERE YOU SURPRISED THAT WE CALLED YOU SO SUDDENLY?
SO YOU'RE HERE
THE ASSHOLE WEARING HEAVY CLOTHES
I CAME TO MEET YOU
CAUSE I FIGURED I'D FUCKING KILL YOU
YOU MIGHT'VE CALLED FOR ME BUT
I DUNNO ANYTHING ABOUT BEING SCOUTED
AND I'M NOT ASHAMED OF MY ONE REASON FOR COMING HERE

SHADDUP
I'M THROUGH TALKING ABOUT WHAT YOU DID TO ME BEFORE

...FUFU
CAN YOU?
I DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD DO ANYTHING TO ME

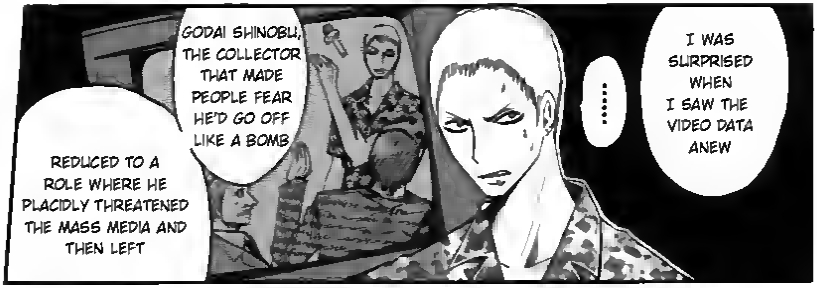
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE FAR TOO GOOD FOR THAT?
YOURSELF, AT PRESENT

OHHH DEAR
AS OUR INFORMATION SAYS, GODA!
SUCH COURAGE TO COME HERE ALONE WITH REVENGE ON YOUR MIND
THAT BUILD THAT TEMPER

...HUH?

BY THOSE INVESTIGATORS, CORRECT?

AT PRESENT YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN WORTHLESS JOBS


I WAS SURPRISED WHEN I SAW THE VIDEO DATA ANEW
.....
GODAI SHINOBU, THE COLLECTOR THAT MADE PEOPLE FEAR HE'D GO OFF LIKE A BOMB
REDUCED TO A ROLE WHERE HE PLACIDLY THREATENED THE MASS MEDIA AND THEN LEFT

BUT BEFORE THAT, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT TRY
HELPING OUT OUR COMPANY?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
YOU CAN SETTLE THINGS WITH YUKI WHENEVER

MUCH LESS WHAT YUKI SPOKE OF, HAVING YOU LOOK AFTER THE OFFICE...
I DON'T THINK THAT'S A VERY GOOD USE OF HUMAN RESOURCES

THE WORK I WAS THINKING OF HAVING YOU DO
WAS USING YOUR TALENT FOR VIOLENCE TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT
THE PERFECT JOB, ISN'T IT?

6
GULF PIER, WAREHOUSE NUMBER SIX
HERE IT IS, NEURO

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WORTH IT!!
YOU GET ALL THE REWARD WHILE I DO THE WORK!!
FUHAHA
AND JUST WHAT DO YOU DO WITH ALL THAT MONEY, ANYWAY!!

EVEN THOUGH THEY SAID THERE'D BE A SIGN... WHAT A ROUGH WAY TO TREAT PEOPLE
HARDLY WORTH IT
HM

DIAMONDS !?
YOU'VE REALLY BEEN SAVING UP!!

ゴオオオオオオ

FROM ALL THE INFORMATION WE'VE GOTTEN ON OUR WEBPAGE...
IT LOOKS LIKE THE COMMERCIAL WAS REALLY EFFECTIVE, MISS KATSURAGI
WE'VE FOUND INFORMANTS WILLING TO SPEAK WITH US ABOUT ANYTHING!!

I'LL BE MEETING YOU THERE TOO...
WE'LL DISCUSS THE DETAILS THERE!!

BECAUSE WE WANT TO BE SURE OF THE SAFETY OF THE PERSON WE WANT TO TALK WITH
WE'D LIKE YOU TO COME, AND DON'T TELL ANYBODY
THERE'S AN ASSIGNED MEETING PLACE TONIGHT, AT ELEVEN!!

...I REALLY WANT TO QUIT THIS JOB
EVEN THE SPOT ON THEIR BILLBOARDS, WHEN THIS IS OVER...

WELL, UP UNTIL THIS TIME, THEY HAVE DEALT WITH THE TROUBLE
I SHOULD CONSIDER MY PRIOR INVESTMENT IN FINDING A "PUZZLE"

ドドド

..... ER...?
スタ
スタ
スタ
AH UM...
WELL, LET'S START WITH...
スト
IT WAS HARD WORK
I BROUGHT IN A WHOLE TRUCKLOAD
ガチン
WHAT ARE YOU DOING !!
GET OVER THERE AND CHECK IT OUT!!
WHAT... WHAT INFORMATION DOES HE PLAN ON TELLING US...?
A WHOLE TRUCKLOAD ...?
WELL, IT WAS A HARD JOB BUT HERE IT IS
TAKE A LOOK
SO MUCH IT OUGHT TO BE IN THE RECORD BOOKS...
ハァ

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, YOU FOUR!!
YOU'VE BEEN CAUGHT IN THE ACT IN A POLICE CRACKDOWN ON DRUG VIOLATIONS!!
DON'T TAKE A SINGLE STEP!!

FENCE THEM IN!!
DON'T LET A SINGLE ONE GET AWAY!!
MR. TSUKUSHI ...!?
NO WAY...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
CAUGHT IN THE ACT...?
DRUGS...
...HMMMM...
NE-NEJIRO!!
SH-
SHIT!!
WHO TOLD THEM!!
IS THIS THE WORK OF THOSE TANUKI...
EITHER WAY, WE SEEM TO BE IN QUITE THE PINCH
FUHAHAHA TRULY...
TROUBLESOME WORK
IT WOULD BE BAD IF THEY SAW OUR FACES

...CALM DOWN!!
WHA... A SMOKE-SCREEN!?
CLOSE OFF ALL THE EXITS!!
I CAN'T SEE THEM...
777 Tools of the Daemon World: EVIL FULL FACE
ARE THERE OFFICERS DEPLOYED THROUGH-OUT THE AREA!?
YESSIR!!
OUTSIDE THE WAREHOUSE, THERE SHOULD BE A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF THEM!!
IT'S A GOOD THING THAT WE'RE WAITING TO HELP THEM OUT
IT SOUNDS LIKE THOSE GENTLEMEN FROM THE POLICE MISSED THEM
...MY OH MY. .

AS LONG AS SHE'S NOT KILLED, I DON'T CARE HOW
AND...
AS I MENTIONED A LITTLE WHILE AGO, THERE ARE HIDDEN SPOTS
IT'S UNFAIR, BUT ONLY CATCH THE WOMAN AND HAND HER OVER TO THE POLICE
ALL THE TARGET SUSPECTS ARE INSIDE THE WAREHOUSE
I'LL PASS OUT THEIR PHOTOS NOW
I'M SURE YOU'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING TO WORK
SUITS LOOK GOOD ON YOU, GODA!
LET THE HUNT BEGIN
WELL THEN...

DUBBED FOR THE
FOREIGN MARKET

I JUST RECIEVED A TIP
THERE'S NOTHING WE COULD HAVE DONE ABOUT BEING INSUFFICIENTLY PREPARED
I'LL SEND OUT YOUR INSTRUCTIONS FROM HERE
GAH...
OH WELL
CHAPTER 26
UNDER
裏
DOUBLE-CROSS
SORRY MR. USUI
WE WEREN'T EXPECTING THEM TO USE AN OLD TRICK LIKE A SMOKESCREEN..
COMB EVERY INCH OF THEM
THE DOCKS ARE IRREGULARLY-SHAPED, AND SO THERE'S A LOT OF PLACES TO HIDE
YES SIR!!
KASAGI, YOU TAKE THE WEST, TSUKUSHI TAKES THE EAST
YOU TAKE CARE OF THOROUGHLY SEARCHING THE DOCKS
WE'VE SET UP CHECKPOINTS ON THE SURROUNDING ROADS
HAVE SOME MEN WATCH ALONG THE CLIFFS FOR ANYONE TRYING TO SWIM AWAY
YESSIR!!
YEAH ...
AS USUAL, HE WORKS FAST, OUR BOSS

TRANSLATION: ANONYMOUS, EDITING: ANONYMOUS, CLEANING: ANONYMOUS
DISTRIBUTE FREELY UNTIL LICENSED TRANSLATION EXISTS. ANONYMOUS DOES NOT FORGIVE!

YEAH...
TRYING TO SMUGGLE IN THAT AMOUNT AT ONE TIME
BUT
THOSE CRIMINALS ARE PRETTY BRAVE

ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION WE HAVE
IT'S OVER TEN TONS OF COCAINE
CHAPTER 40
裏【DOUBLE-CROSS】
UNDERNEATH

IF YOU MAKE A SOUND, YOU WILL BE KILLED BY THE POLICE
YES, SURELY, KILLED
ピピー

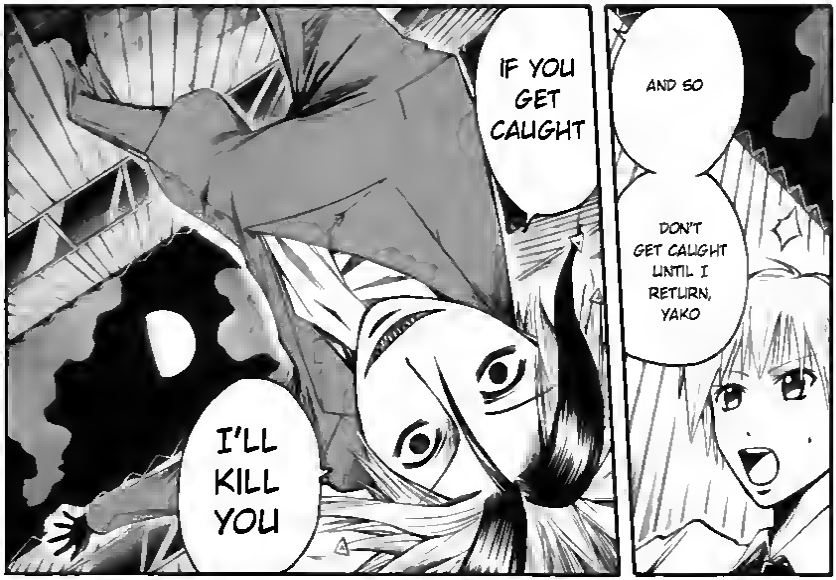
DO NOT MAKE A SOUND

IT IS DARK, I CANNOT READ IT
...MM?
I'M BEING KILLED BY YOU

IT'S BEEN PLANNED
OF COURSE WE WERE SET UP
ONCE CAUGHT, PERHAPS...
IT WAS MADE SO THAT WE WOULD HAVE NO EXCUSE

WHY WERE WE FOLLOWED TO GET CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A DRUG DEAL!?
WHAT'S GOING ON, NEURO!?

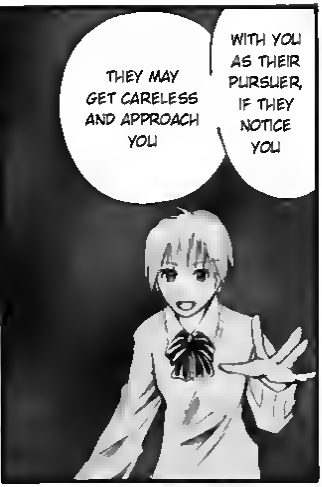
I DO NOT WANT TO USE THEM TOO MANY TIMES IN ON DAY
WHEN THERE IS NO "PUZZLE" TO BE HAD, USING MY DAEMONIC POWERS...
WILL STEADILY EMPTY MY STOMACH
WITH YOU HERE, IT SHOULD BE EASY TO GET AWAY FROM HERE, RIGHT!?
B-BUT...
JUST USE THE RIGHT DAEMON WORLD TOOL
HM
YOU SEE, I...
HAVE TO SEARCH FOR THOSE TWO SUPPLIERS THAT RAN AWAY TOGETHER
BUT AS FOR YOU, I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LEAVE YOU ALONE
I DO NOT KNOW ABOUT MYSELF,
HUH
NO WAY!?
THEY KNEW YOUR NAME
EVEN IF YOU RUN FROM THE POLICE HERE
IT WILL BE BAD IF THEY GET CAUGHT AND TALK


IF YOU GET CAUGHT
I'LL KILL YOU
AND SO
DON'T GET CAUGHT UNTIL I RETURN, YAKO

MY LIFE IS ON THE LINE OVER ABANDONMENT PLAY.....
ぽ
ABANDONMENT PLAY...
つん...

YOU HAVE THE MAP OF THE DOCKS MEMORIZED?
IF YOU RUN INTO THE POLICE, SAY YOU'RE ASSISTING AND SHOW PROOF OF THE COMPANY YOU WORK FOR
... NOW THEN
LESS THAN ONE MINUTE TO THE SCENE

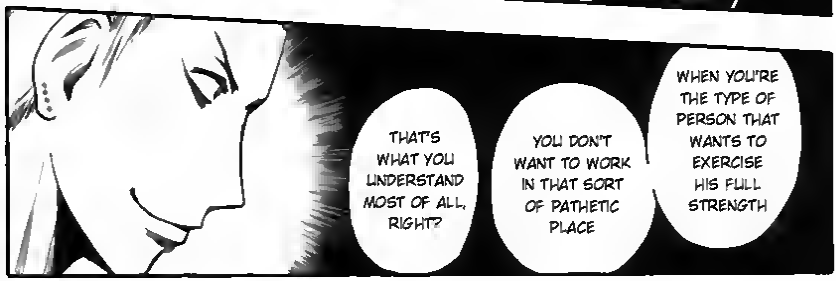
THAT'S WHY WE'RE GIVING THEM A HAND
FINDING THE CRIMINALS IN HIDING
THE LAYOUT OF THE AREA IS COMPLICATED
ONCE THEY END UP RUNNING ...
THE POLICE CAN'T GATHER THEM UP ON THEIR OWN
.....
..... OH YEAH ..
GODAI
YOUR THOUGHTS, NOW THAT YOU'VE SEEN THE PHOTOS?
.....
I KNOW WHY
YOU GUYS HIRED ME


WITH YOU AS THEIR PURSUER, IF THEY NOTICE YOU
THEY MAY GET CARELESS AND APPROACH YOU

YOU UNDERSTAND?
GOOD
YOU'LL RECOGNIZE THEM
I HAVE NO WORRIES THAT YOU'LL MISTAKE ANYONE ELSE FOR THEM

NO
OF COURSE I TRUST YOU
YOU'RE ON OUR SIDE

...OHO
I USED TO WORK IN THEIR OFFICE
YOU DON'T THINK I'M GONNA HELP THEM INSTEAD?


THAT'S WHAT YOU UNDERSTAND MOST OF ALL, RIGHT?
YOU DON'T WANT TO WORK IN THAT SORT OF PATHETIC PLACE
WHEN YOU'RE THE TYPE OF PERSON THAT WANTS TO EXERCISE HIS FULL STRENGTH

AFTER I CAME HERE EXPECTING TROUBLE...
YOU SEEM LIKE SUCH CUTE AND FOOLISH LITTLE SUPPLIERS
WHAT'S WRONG?
ARE YOU NOT GOING TO RESIST MORE?
THE WAY TO GET OUT OF THE PINCH YOU ARE IN IS...
THAT YOU MUST TELL ME EVERYTHING
HIDING LIKE THIS, WE ARE NOT MAKING ANY PROGRESS
WE WERE SET UP BY ALL OF YOU
WELL, DO NOT BE FRIGHTENED
ビク

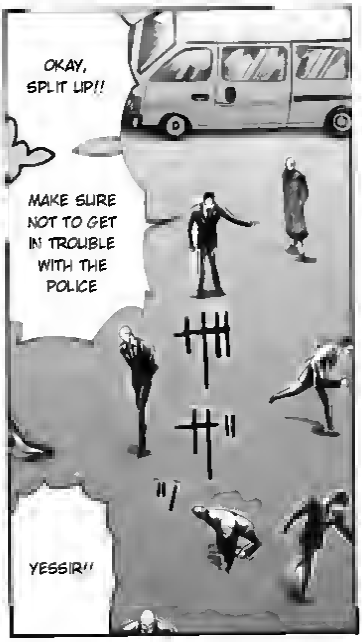
HM
AND HOW DID YOU KNOW OUR NAMES AND FACES?
FURTHER-MORE, ONLY TWO OF YOU CAME TO DO THE DEAL
T-TALK!?
WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!!
WE JUST MAKE THE DELIVERY!!

IT MAKES IT FASTER TO DELIVER WHEN THERE'S LESS PEOPLE!!
WE NEVER FAILED BEFORE THIS!!
OUR ORGANIZATION IS ALWAYS DOING BUSINESS LIKE THIS!!

I DO NOT KNOW WHY WE ARE BEING TARGETED BUT...
..... HM
EEP
NO MATTER, EITHER WAY
DELIVER?
...I SEE, THE MONEY HAS ALREADY CHANGED HANDS
AND AS THE DELIVERY PEOPLE, YOU WERE TOLD THE TIME AND PLACE

IT WAS MOCHIZUKI AND HAYASAKA... YOU SAID
IT HAS BEEN A FINE STUDY
IN BEING DECIEVED BY HUMANS
さやあああ
IT MAY HURT A LITTLE BIT...
DO NOT WORRY, I DO NOT PLAN TO KILL YOU
IT WILL JUST DESTROY A FEW MEMORIES
I DO NOT MIND IF YOU SCREAM
SINCE IT WILL ACT AS A LURE TO DRAW THE POLICE HERE
OH, THAT'S RIGHT
I SHALL HAVE TO SEAL YOUR LIPS
GEH

MR HAYASAKA
NH?
IS IT OKAY?
GETTING THAT ASSHOLE INVOLVED


OKAY, SPLIT UP!!
MAKE SURE NOT TO GET IN TROUBLE WITH THE POLICE
YESSIR!!

FUFUFU

...LOOK, HE'S MAKING A CALL
PERHAPS TO THE INVESTIGATORS
I CAN PREDICT THE ACTIONS OF PEOPLE LIKE HIM
I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT, IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS, HE'LL GO DIRECTLY TO THEM

SINCE WE'RE FOLLOWING HIM
IF HE CATCHES OR HELPS THE INVESTIGATORS ...
EITHER WAY, THERE'S A HIGH PROBABILITY THAT WE'LL MAKE CONTACT WITH THEM
ISH

...HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?
SINCE THAT SMILE WAS PLASTERED ACROSS HIS FACE
EVEN IF HE JUST LEADS US TO THEM...
NO MATTER WHICH IS IN HIS MIND IT'S NO PROBLEM
CATCHING THE INVESTIGATORS CAN BE OUR JOB
BETWEEN THIS MAN AND MOCHIZUKI, EVERYTHING JUST MOVES ACCORDING TO THEIR PLANS
FROM THE BEGINNING, WE... HAVEN'T HEARD WHY WE'RE HANDING OVER THE INVESTIGATOR TO THE POLICE
THESE KINDS OF TRICKS AND SECRETS..
WE RAN WILD TOGETHER FOR OUR OWN SIMPLE REASONS LIKE FOOLS..
...IT'S DIFFERENT THAN IT USED TO BE

HE'S LOITERING
THEY MUST BE IN THE AREA
YUKI
ARE YOU SPACING OUT?
I AM SURE HE WILL NOT BETRAY ME AND THAT IS BECAUSE ..
I UNDERSTAND THIS ABOUT HIM
SEE...?
HIS ACTIONS ARE EASY TO UNDER-STAND
MR. GODAI
WHAT I HAVE IS THE INSTRUCTION MANUAL ON HOW TO DEAL WITH...
THE PERSON CALLED GODAI SHINOBU
ALL PEOPLE
LOOK FOR PEOPLE WHO UNDERSTAND THEM PROPERLY

...OH
I'D BEEN THINKING, OH NO, WHAT AM I GOING TO DO ALL ALONE!!
YOU REALLY SAVED US WITH YOUR CALL!!
YOU WERE SO CLOSE BY!!
I ALREADY...
GOT MYSELF A NEW BOSS
...WELL, JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO
AS EXPECTED, GODA!
...HUH?
BOSS...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ...?

I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU
I FIGURED YOU'D CATCH THEM BY PRETENDING TO HELP THEM
...OH
THAT COMPANY...
WHY ARE THEY HERE ...?
HUH?
...YEAH
I THOUGHT A LOT ABOUT MY ACTIONS TOO
FUFUFU... THAT'S WHY I SAID IT
I'M THE ONE WHO MOST UNDERSTANDS YOUR STRENGTHS
WELL THEN LET'S GO COMMEMORATE TODAY, THE DAY YOU JOINED OUR COMPANY
...YEAH
AND THESE GUYS...
FIGURED I WAS JUST AN ORDINARY PUNK, MIND AND BODY

ゴゴゴ…
BUT I'D RATHER COMMEMORATE THE DAY I RESIGN FROM THE COMPANY
WHA...
WAAA
ドゴ
ゴオ
ン
HYAHAHAHA, MORONS!!
FALLING FOR A TRAP LIKE THIS!!

AS A BONUS, THANKS TO THE MAP YOU SHOWED ME
THERE'S NOWHERE FOR YOU TO RUN
GUH...
WITH YOU GUYS WATCHING ME, TAILING ME
TOLD YA, DIDN'T I?
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT A LOT TOO
AT THE VERY LEAST
I WOULDN'T WORK SOMEWHERE I DIDN'T TRUST
AND EVEN MORE THAN THAT
ALL THIS OLD GUY WANTS TO UNDERSTAND IS
WHETHER OR NOT HIS SUBORDINATES ARE GONNA ACT AS HIS PAWNS IN SOME POORLY-MADE COUNTERATTACK?
HEY, ASSHOLE WEARING THE HEAVY CLOTHES
YOU'VE GOT A PRETTY SHITTY BOSS
THIS OLD GUY'S FAKE SMILE IS...
A SMILE THAT NOBODY COULD EVER TRUST
.....

MR. GODAI
HEY, MOVE IT
YOU WANNA END UP IN JAIL

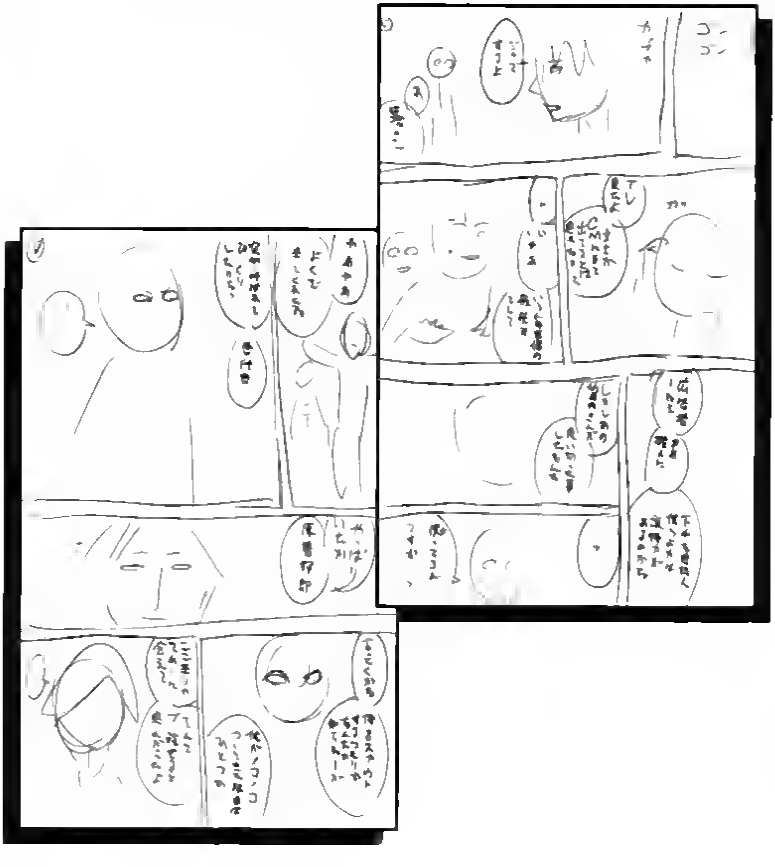
IF I'M GONNA WORK SOMEWHERE WHERE I'M JUST A PAWN...
I'D RATHER DEAL WITH DOING ODD JOBS FOR THIS SHITTY DIRECTOR

...NOPE!!
I'D RATHER NOT!!

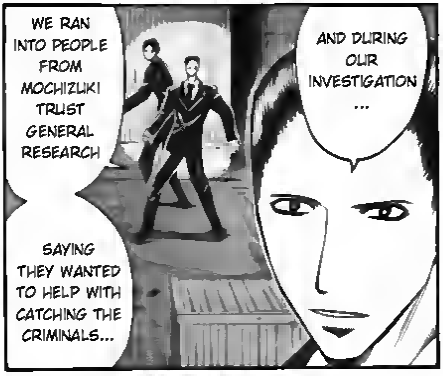
...GUH...
IT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH...!!

HAH
SHADDUP
NOT EVEN A SINGLE WORD OF THANKS
HAH
HAH
HAH
ESCAPING WITHOUT MY AID
HOW SURPRISING, EXCELLENT WORK
FUHAHAHA, WHAT
NOW YOUR VIEW HAS BROADENED, HAS IT NOT?
A FULL-FLEDGED RESPECTABLE ODD-JOB MAN FOR MY OFFICE
AND THAT I GOT KICKED OUT OF A JOB THAT PAID WELL
WHAT I WAS PISSED ABOUT WAS HOW IT'S YOUR FAULT I GOT SO TOLERANT
SO IF DON'T SHOW ME SOME APPRECIATION, I REALLY WILL KILL YOU
SHALL WE FINISH OUR VARIOUS JOBS
NOW THEN, SINCE ALL THE MEMBERS ARE GATHERED...

THE GREAT FULL-POWER STORYBOARD EXHIBITION



...NO
THEY JUST GO ON AND ON ABOUT MEANINGLESS THINGS...
... AND?
ANY INFORMATION ON THEIR PARTNERS THAT GOT AWAY?
HAVE THEY SPIT IT OUT YET?


WE RAN INTO PEOPLE FROM MOCHIZUKI TRUST GENERAL RESEARCH
SAYING THEY WANTED TO HELP WITH CATCHING THE CRIMINALS...
AND DURING OUR INVESTIGATION ...

TRANSLATION: ANONYMOUS · EDITING: ANONYMOUS · CLEANING: ANONYMOUS
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SASAZUKA
BOTH YOU AND MY SUPERIORS KEEP RELYING ON DIRTY BUSINESS
...INSTEAD
THEY TAKE IN THE FILTHY PARTS OF THIS SORT OF THING BUT...
CAN WE CALL THIS DOING OUR JOB PROPERLY?
B-3
CHAPTER 41
寒【COLD】

THEY GOT... AWAY?

TO TAKE CARE OF THEM QUICKLY
WE MAY HAVE...
THEY CAN'T GIVE OUT ALL OF THE INFORMATION THEY HAVE!!
AND MAKE IT SO THAT
...SORRY
THINGS WENT WRONG WITH OUR PLANS
GRR...
THIS PART CAME THROUGH SUCCESSFULLY ...
IF THEY DON'T CATCH THOSE INVESTIGATORS, OUR PLAN'S SUCCESS FALLS TO 80%
ドー
JUST LIKE YOU TAUGHT ME
I'LL USE MY FAITHFUL SUBORDINATE TO TAKE CARE OF THEM
SECRETLY
AND QUICKLY
.....
DON'T WORRY, BOSS

THERE'S A CHILD BURIED IN THERE!!
IT'S AN AVALANCHE !!
OUR PARENTS LEFT WHEN WE WERE CHILDREN
IT'S DANGEROUS!!
WE HAVE TO HURRY AND SAVE HIM!!
THE HOUSE LOOKS LIKE IT'S ABOUT TO COLLAPSE
IT'S ALREADY BEEN TEN MINUTES!!
WE HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE RESCUE PARTY ARRIVES!!
THE ONLY WAY TO FIGHT IT WAS BY THE CLOTHES YOU WORE
OUR HOMETOWN WAS HORRIBLY COLD
YOU COULDN'T EXPECT HELP FROM ANYONE
IN THAT COLD THE PEOPLE POWERLESS AGAINST IT WERE CRUEL
EVERYONE WAS BURIED DEEP WITHIN THEIR OWN COLDNESS

INSIDE THE COLD THAT EVEN TREMBLING COULDN'T DRIVE AWAY...
HEY, GET BACK, YOU FOOL!
YOU'RE IN DANGER, TOO!!
INSIDE IT LIKE THAT
ARE YOU OKAY, YUKI!!
YUKI!!
I THINK
THEY ARE STILL IN THIS AREA
WITH YOU...
ONLY WHEN I'M WITH YOU

Y-YESSIR
...HEY
JUST AS TEACHER PREDICTED...
TELL THE BOSSES...
TO GET OUT OF HERE

WELL
TEACHER HAS A THEORY
WHY THE BOSSES CAME TO THIS PIER?
EVEN I DIDN'T KNOW UNTIL I GOT HERE
DO YOU KNOW...

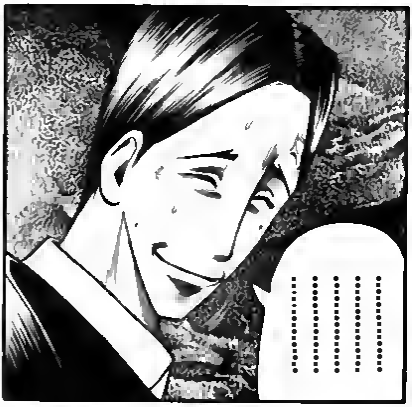
CONSIDERING THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE, THEY WERE WELL-DEPLOYED
BUT DESPITE THAT, IT WAS NOT DIFFICULT TO ESCAPE
FORSEEING THAT, YOUR GROUP CAME TO ASSIST
DESPITE THE HUGE DEAL BEING UNCOVERED...
THE NUMBER OF POLICE AT THE SCENE WAS FEWER THAN EXPECTED
AS THOUGH THEY WERE NOT PREPARED AND HAD RUSHED IN
I DO NOT KNOW WHY WE WERE SET UP AS THE CRIMINALS BUT...
AT ANY RATE, THIS IS TEACHER'S THEORY
SHE THINKS THE GOAL WAS TO GATHER THE EYES OF THE POLICE AT THAT PIER...
WITH INFORMATION YOUR COMPANY HANDED OVER IMMEDIATELY BEFOREHAND...
TO AVERT THEIR EYES FROM A MUCH GREATER DEAL TAKING PLACE ...
IF THEY APPROACH
THAT'S RIGHT
AND NOW YOU...
CAME SEARCHING FOR A PLACE IN THE AREA THAT A SIMILAR DEAL MIGHT BE MADE

...HEY!!
DIDN'T I SAY TO GET OUT OF HERE!?
WHY DID YOU COME BACK!?

AND THE RESULT IS THAT YOU ARRIVED AT THIS PIER...

IT'S FINE
I HAVE A USE FOR THEM TOO

YUKI
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, SO BE QUIET
AND...
DON'T FORGET ABOUT MY NAME WHEN YOU CALL ME


.....

...OHOO...
YOU GOT A TERRIBLE LOOK IN YOUR EYES JUST NOW
IS THAT A GRUDGE I HEAR?

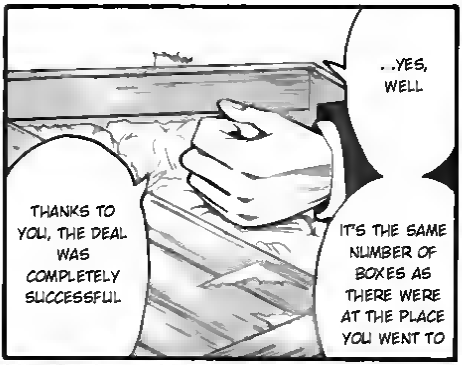
DURING THAT TIME
I'LL GIVE YOU A JOB TO DO
YUKI...
THE BOSS AND I WANT TO TALK TO THESE INVESTIGATORS
TAKE THIS PUNK...
BEAT HIM UNTIL HE'S HALF-DEAD AND BRING HIM TO ME!!
NOT ALIVE, DEAD, OR UNCONSCIOUS
YOU SHOULD BE THE MOST QUALIFIED
TO MAKE HIM SUFFER
IT WOULD BE EASY TO KILL HIM RIGHT AWAY BUT...
SUCH THINGS AREN'T GOOD ENOUGH AS THE PRICE FOR SUCH A FINE BETRAYAL OF MY EXPECTATIONS
I WANT HIM TO HAVE THE TIME TO REGRET IT
.....
AM I NOT A BOSS THAT KNOWS HOW TO USE THE MEN AT HIS DISPOSAL?
...WHAT DO YOU THINK

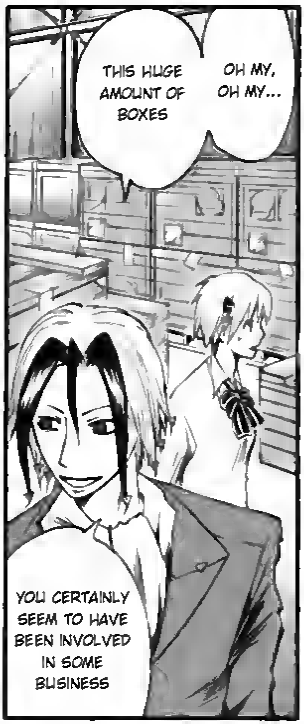
...MR. GODAI !!
IT'S FINE, GO ON
ANYWAY, MY BUSINESS WITH THIS GUY IS GONNA BE OVER SOON
GOOD
...ACKNOWLEDGED...
I'LL JUST TAKE THESE TWO INSIDE
.....
OH, I'M MOVED BY THE RESULTS OF MY DISCIPLINE
THAT MY OWN SLAVE IS HAPPY TO BE A SLAVE!!
DON'T BE DEGRADING ME SO CASUALLY!!
AND THEN I'LL BE DOING ODD JOBS FOR YOU JERKS?
A LITTLE HOUSE-CLEANING WHEN MY BOSSES NEED IT
EVEN IF IT'S FAKE, IT'S ALL ABOUT THE FORM OF THE THING

.....
AND AS FOR A REWARD FOR BEING THAT SORT OF SLAVE
I WILL GIVE YOU A LITTLE HINT ABOUT HIS TRICK
AS IF I NEED ANY OF HIS SMARTS
...CHE
.....
YA THINK
BUT, THERE'S ONE THING ON MY MIND
..EHHH
IT'S BECAUSE HE'S SUCH A KIND BOSS, HUH
I'M SURE IT'S...
THE WAY TO CALM A SOFT LITTLE PET DOG

I'M GLAD YOU CAME
IT SAVED ME A BIT OF TROUBLE

...OH, THE INVESTIGATORS


..YES, WELL
IT'S THE SAME NUMBER OF BOXES AS THERE WERE AT THE PLACE YOU WENT TO
THANKS TO YOU, THE DEAL WAS COMPLETELY SUCCESSFUL


OH MY, OH MY...
THIS HUGE AMOUNT OF BOXES
YOU CERTAINLY SEEM TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN SOME BUSINESS

DRUGS!?
WHY IS A RESEARCH COMPANY DEALING IN DRUGS?

BY GRASPING THE WEAKNESSES OF GREAT LEADERS
HE CONTROLLED THE COUNTRY FROM UNDERNEATH
A FAMOUS OFFICER IN THE FBI
ONCE HAD A METHOD OF GATHERING INFORMATION
EVERYTHING IS A PRODUCT THAT BRINGS IN INFORMATION
IN THE END, YOU TAKE THEM OVER, YOURSELF
IT'S EASY TO MAKE A HUGE PROFIT WITH DRUG DEALS
IF YOU JUST CONTROL THE INFORMATION, YOU CAN CONTROL EVERYTHING
IF YOU CONTINUE TO FEED INFORMATION TO YOUR PET UNDERGROUND ORGANIZATIONS
ガッ
INFOR-MATION
THOUGH YOU MIGHT USE IT, IT DOESN'T SHINE
IT'S A DULL BLACK LUMP
TO RESOLVE THIS, WE HAD TO USE YOU
WITH THE STRATEGY KNOWN AS INFORMATION CONTROL
...BUT...
THIS TIME, THE DEAL WAS VERY INCONVENIENT

THE FIRST TIME INFORMATION IS USED BY A PERSON LIKE ME..
IT LETS OFF A SHINING SILVER LIGHT
!!
...
HOHOHO
DON'T BE SO HASTY, HAYASAKA
YOU'RE NORMALLY SO CALM, IS SOMETHING WRONG
...SO, BOSS
MAY I EXPLAIN IT TO THEM?
THERE'S ONE LITTLE THING ON MY MIND
...YES

.....
THAT BOSS OF YOURS...
YOU CALLED HIM HAYASAKA
HE'S
YOUR BROTHER OR SOMETHING?
...EHHH...
WELL-SPOTTED
SURPRISINGLY, YOU'RE NOT COMPLETELY STUPID
WHY DID YOU THINK THAT?
...NOTHING, REALLY...
I FIGURED IF YOU HAD A COMPLETE STRANGER AS YOUR BOSS...
YOU WOULDN'T BE SO OBEDIENT
ピク

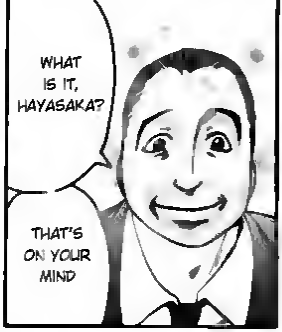
...SHUT UP ...
WHAT COULD YOU KNOW ABOUT US

MAKING YOU CALL HIM BY HIS LAST NAME, LIKE BEING POLITE TO A STRANGER
HE'S USING YOU AS A PAWN AGAIN ACTING LIKE YOU LIKE IT
HOW CAN YOU CHOOSE TO WORK LIKE THAT?

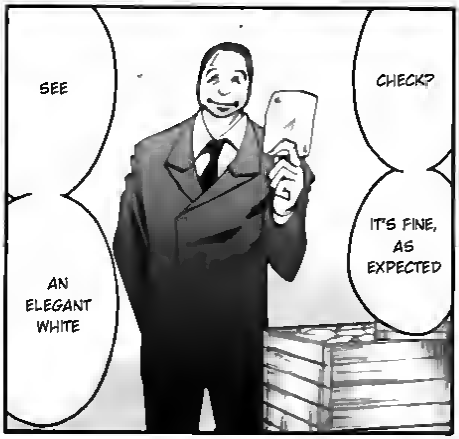
WHEN I'M WITH HIM...
ALL THE COLD FEELINGS IN MY LIFE ARE GONE!!
FROM THE MOMENT I WAS BORN, MY BROTHER WAS MY BOSS!!
HE'S GIVEN ME A PLACE TO LIVE!!

GETTING YOU TOGETHER WITH YOUR BROTHER REALLY GETS THROUGH YOUR THICK SKIN, HUH
...
HMM.

FIRST OF ALL, I THOUGHT I'D LIKE TO CHECK THE GOODS
..... WELL...
REGARDLESS OF THE DEAL BEING FINISHED SAFELY OR NOT

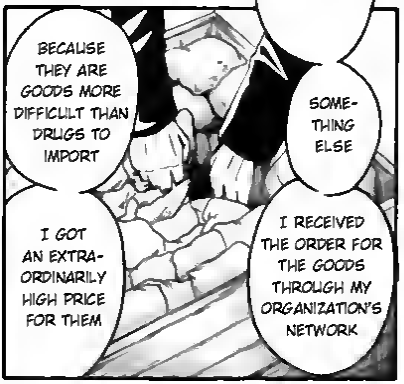

WHAT IS IT, HAYASAKA?
THAT'S ON YOUR MIND

...NO
WHAT I WANT IS BLACK


SEE
AN ELEGANT WHITE
CHECK?
IT'S FINE, AS EXPECTED

...JUST LIKE YOU TAUGHT ME, BOSS
AROUND IMPORTANT PEOPLE...
KEEP YOUR INFORMATION SECRET

HEY WHAT...
...IT'S ACTUALLY

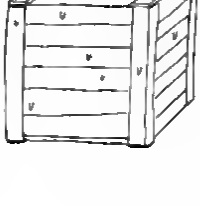

BECAUSE THEY ARE GOODS MORE DIFFICULT THAN DRUGS TO IMPORT
SOME-THING ELSE
I GOT AN EXTRA-ORDINARILY HIGH PRICE FOR THEM
I RECEIVED THE ORDER FOR THE GOODS THROUGH MY ORGANIZATION'S NETWORK

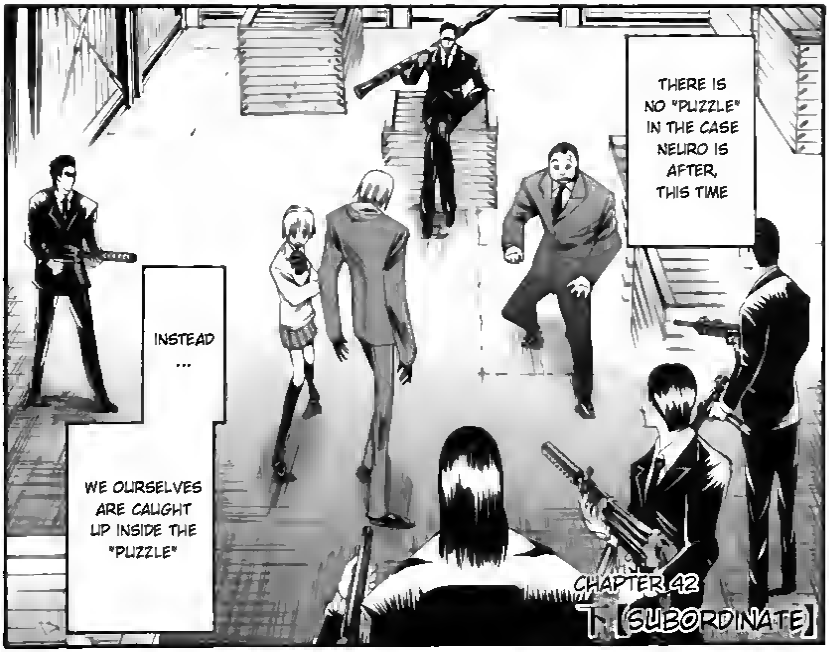
CHECK THE ONES YOU GOT, TOO
HEY
YESSIR!!
ガチャ
ガチャ
PLEASE, TAKE A LOOK
スッ
ニッ
AT THIS SUPERB BLACK!!
WHA...
THAT'S BECAUSE, AS I SAID
THE INFORMATION WAS KEPT SECRET
ジャキ
ジャキ
I DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT THIS PART OF THE PLAN!!
WHAT IS THIS, HAYASAKA!!
ジャキッ

TO THE WHOLE STORY OF THE PLAN I CONSTRUCTED THIS TIME AROUND
WELL, WE'VE CHECKED OUT THE GOODS
...NOW THEN
ALL OF YOU, LISTEN WHILE YOU LOOK DOWN THE BARREL OF OUR GUNS
HMPH...
BRING IT, GODAI...
WE'LL PROVE WHOSE BOSS IS RIGHT
BY THE STRENGTH OF THEIR SUBORDINATES!!

HOW IT GOT INTO THE COUNTRY

"STARCH"

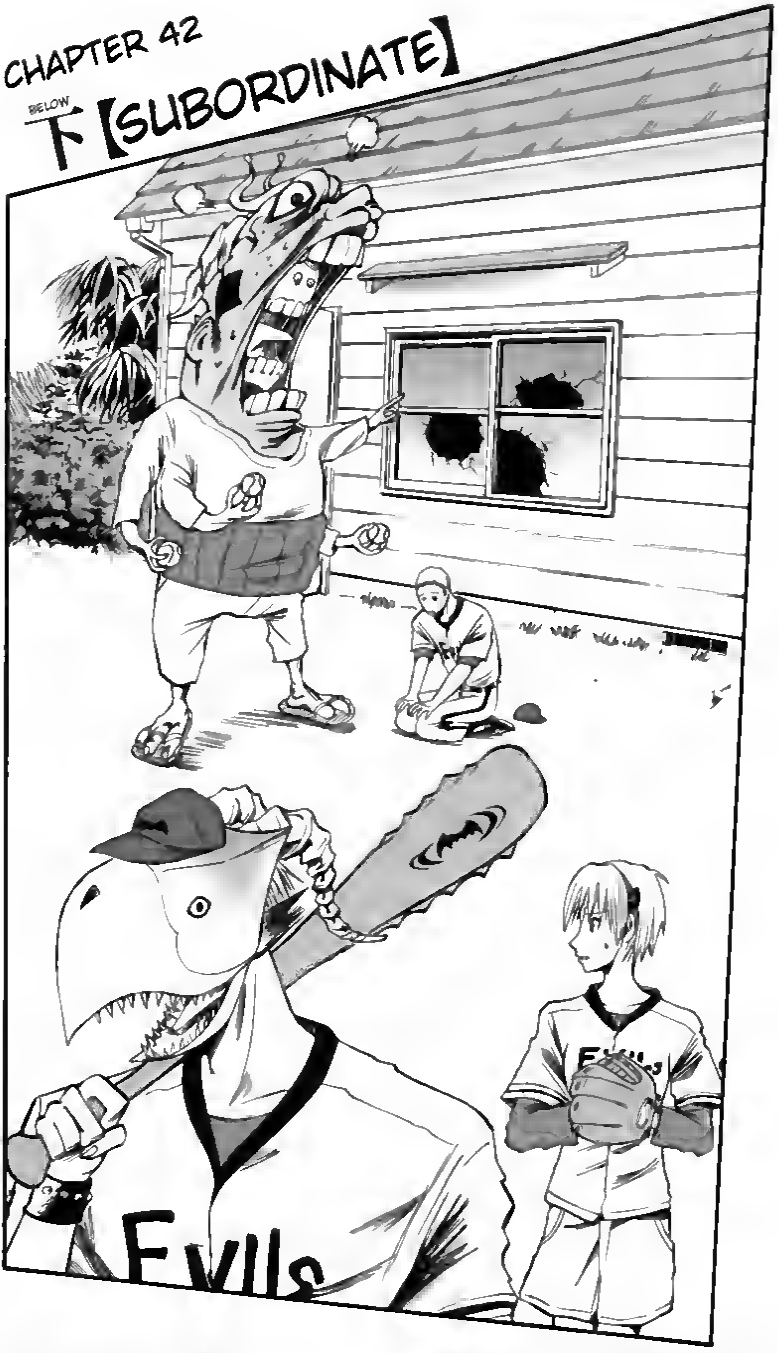



THERE IS NO "PUZZLE" IN THE CASE NEURO IS AFTER, THIS TIME
INSTEAD ...
WE OURSELVES ARE CAUGHT UP INSIDE THE "PUZZLE"
CHAPTER 42
T [SUBORDINATE]

TAKING RISKS WITHOUT FILLING HIS STOMACH...
AT LEAST THE GUNS WON'T BE A PROBLEM FOR HIM
WHAT IS NEURO THINKING RIGHT NOW, I WONDER

CHAPTER 42

BELOW 下 【SUBORDINATE】



TRANSLATION: ANONYMOUS · EDITING: ANONYMOUS · CLEANING: ANONYMOUS

DISTRIBUTE FREELY UNTIL LICENSED! TRANSLATIONS EXIST. ANONYMOUS DOES NOT FORGIVE!

AND THAT'S WHY THERE'S SUCH A GOOD MARKET FOR THEM
YOU DON'T GET IT, DO YOU, BOSS..
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, HAYASAKA
THIS NUMBER OF GUNS...
IS A LOT EASIER TO TRACE THAN DRUGS!!
SO I'D LIKE TO EXPLAIN IT PROPERLY TO THE INVESTIGATORS
THE PLAN HAS GONE WELL SO FAR
PLEASE BE QUIET FOR A BIT
OH WELL
EVEN MORESO FOR A COMPANY LIKE OURS THAT HAS THEIR TRUST
MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, TO KNOW THE MOVEMENTS OF THE POLICE BEFOREHAND
THE GREATEST MERIT IN THIS SORT OF BUSINESS IS...
FOR THE PERSON HANDLING THE INFORMATION

IF THEIR TARGET SOMEHOW SLIPPED AWAY, THEY WOULD HAVE TO ALL PILE ON THEM
...THAT IS WHAT WE MANIPULATED THE INFORMATION TO DO
THE GREATEST PART OF THE BUSINESS THIS TIME AROUND WAS
TO CLUE THE POLICE IN TO SOMETHING BAD GOING ON
IN ORDER TO MAKE THEM STRENGTHEN THEIR GUARD
THEN WE AQUIRED
INFORMATION OF A DRUG DEAL OF A SIMILAR SCALE
WITH AN ORGANIZATION NEARBY
BOTH BOSSES' VOICES, WAY OF TALKING, LITTLE NOISES... ALL INFORMATION THAT WE AQUIRED
PRETENDING WAS EASY
THEN WE
A
B
B
PRETENDED TO BE... THE RECIEVING SIDE
AND MADE THE DAY OF THE DEAL SHIFT TO THE SAME DAY AS OURS
IN ORDER TO TURN THE EYES OF THE POLICE THERE

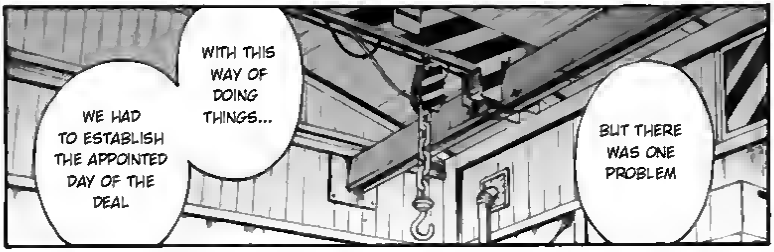
ドゴ

OWWW...
AS USUAL, I DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHAT HE'S DOING...

HA HA HA HA WHAT WAS THAT!!
YOU MAY TALK BIG...
BUT IN THE END, YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE MY ATTACK COMING, CAN YOU!!

WHAT WAS IT AGAIN...
THE HINT HE GAVE ME...

YOU EXPECT ME TO UNDERSTAND THAT!!
THE INSIDE, OF HIS HAND, BELOW, AND BEHIND
YOU SHOULD WATCH OUT FOR...
YOU CAN'T EVEN COMPARE THE TRUST BETWEEN MY BROTHER AND I SUPERIOR AND SUBORDINATE TO YOU GUYS!!
UNTIL, AS BROTHER WANTED, YOU'LL BE HALF-DEAD!!
LOOK!!
BIT BY BIT, YOUR WOUNDS ARE INCREASING!!
INSIDE THE AGONY THAT EVEN TREMBLING CAN'T DRIVE AWAY...
YOU'LL LEARN THAT THROUGH EXPERIENCE!!
あ

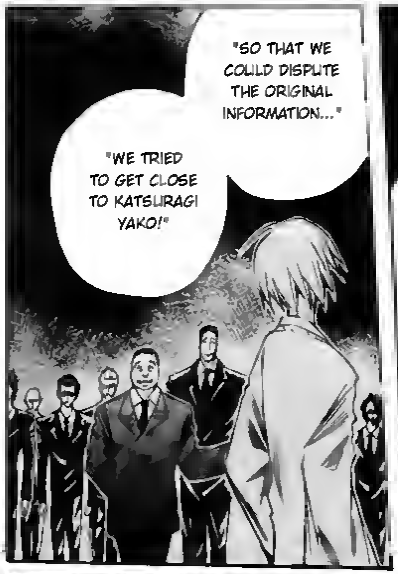

WE HAD TO ESTABLISH THE APPOINTED DAY OF THE DEAL
WITH THIS WAY OF DOING THINGS...
BUT THERE WAS ONE PROBLEM

THAT IS HOW YOU VIEWED US
AND THEN, THE PEOPLE RECIEVING THE DELIVERY WOULD BE THE SCAPEGOATS FOR THE CRIME...

OF COURSE!!
WITH THIS WAY OF THE DELIVERY, YOU NEEDED SOMEONE TO TAKE YOUR PLACE...
BECAUSE YOU WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GO ON THE APPOINTED DAY

FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE WORLD, BOTH OF US ARE THE SAME TYPE OF PEOPLE
WE ARE PEOPLE THAT HAVE THE POWER TO CONTROL THE INFORMATION WE GATHER
WE PREPARED THE SETUP FROM THAT

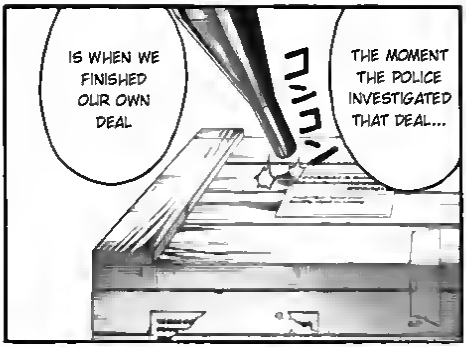
THAT WAS OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE ABILITIES OF THE INVESTIGATOR KATSURAGI YAKO
EXACTLY!!
THE WORLD DOESN'T KNOW MUCH OF YOUR HABITS


"SO THAT WE COULD DISPUTE THE ORIGINAL INFORMATION..."
"WE TRIED TO GET CLOSE TO KATSURAGI YAKO!"

"THAT WAS WHY THE PRETEXT OF USING HER IN OUR ADS!!"

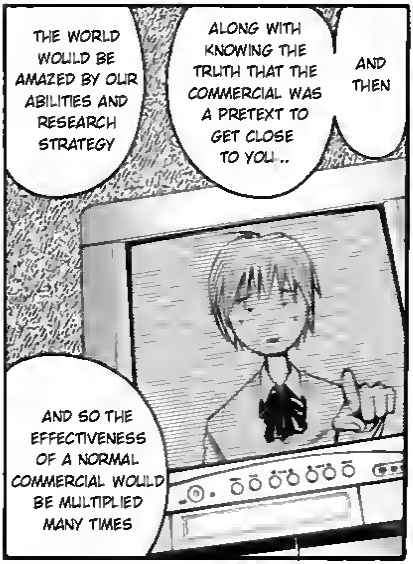
"IS THAT THE INVESTIGATOR KATSURAGI YAKO"
"THE INFORMATION THAT MOCHIZUKI TRUST GENERAL RESEARCH AQUIRED..."
"IS USING HER ABILITY TO GATHER INFORMATION AND HER FAME TO GET..."
"INVOLVED IN DEALING DRUGS!!"

"WHILE WE WERE DOING BUSINESS WITH HER, THE ACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF HER DEALINGS POPPED UP!!"
...AND AS FOR PROOF, I WORKED HARD TO FORGE IT
BY NOW, MY SUBORDINATES SHOULD HAVE PLANTED IT IN YOUR OFFICE


IS WHEN WE FINISHED OUR OWN DEAL
THE MOMENT THE POLICE INVESTIGATED THAT DEAL....

"AND SO THEN WE LEAKED THE INFORMATION ABOUT THAT BUSINESS TO THE POLICE!!"
...IS THE STORY

IF THE POLICE TRIED TO CATCH US, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN KATSURAGI YAKO INSTEAD!!
AND THE PROOF OF THE DEAL IS IN YOUR OFFICE
YOU'D HAVE HAD NO EXCUSE

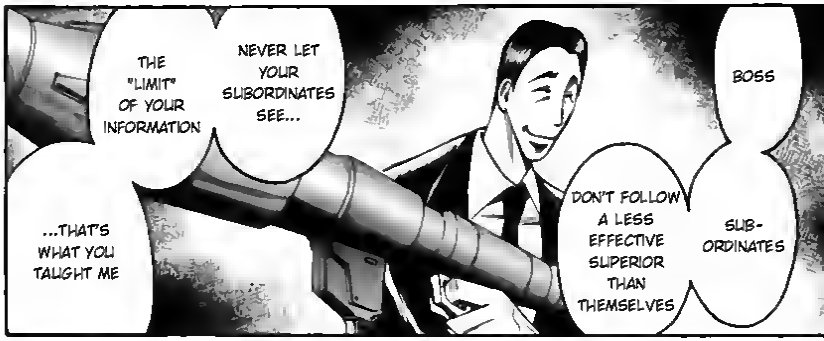

THE WORLD WOULD BE AMAZED BY OUR ABILITIES AND RESEARCH STRATEGY
ALONG WITH KNOWING THE TRUTH THAT THE COMMERCIAL WAS A PRETEXT TO GET CLOSE TO YOU ..
AND THEN
AND SO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF A NORMAL COMMERCIAL WOULD BE MULTIPLIED MANY TIMES

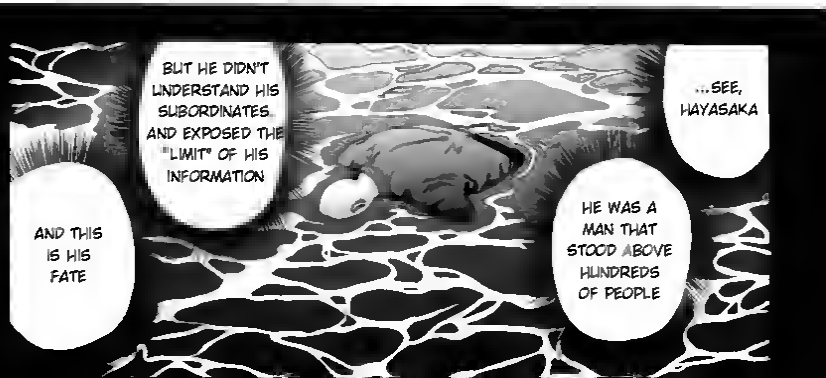
AND ACCORDINGLY, ATE IT ALL UP
THE POLICE HAVE GREAT CONFIDENCE IN OUR ORIGINAL INFORMATION...

BUT I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT BUYING FIREARMS LIKE THIS!!
WHAT ABOUT THE DEBT YOU OWE ME FOR HAVING RAISED YOU!!

...WELL, UP TO THAT POINT IS...
THE PLAN THAT BOSS AND I MADE, ANYWAY
T-THAT'S TRUE!!

MGAH


THE "LIMIT" OF YOUR INFORMATION
NEVER LET YOUR SUBORDINATES SEE...
...THAT'S WHAT YOU TAUGHT ME
BOSS
DON'T FOLLOW A LESS EFFECTIVE SUPERIOR THAN THEMSELVES
SUB-ORDINATES


BUT HE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND HIS SUBORDINATES AND EXPOSED THE "LIMIT" OF HIS INFORMATION
...SEE, HAYASAKA
AND THIS IS HIS FATE
HE WAS A MAN THAT STOOD ABOVE HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE

WEARING A SMILE IS YOUR ARMOR, HAYASAKA
...YESSIR
NO, NO, THAT FACE IS NO GOOD
YESSIR
WE AS PEOPLE THAT DEAL IN INFORMATION
SHOW A SIMPLE FACE TO ALL KINDS OF IMPORTANT PEOPLE
FOR NOW SMILE
THAT THIS COMPANY GOT SO LARGE IS..
FIRST ON THIS COMMEMORATIVE AGENDA IS...
FROM HERE ON, I'LL BE AT THE HELM OF THIS COMPANY
BECAUSE YOU TAUGHT ME TO SMILE
YOU AND THOSE INVESTIGATORS
TAKING CARE OF

ガッ
バシュ

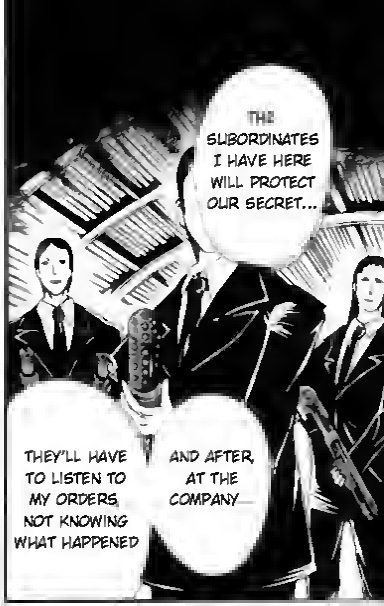
...IF THAT'S THE CASE, DON'T BE SO QUICK TO TALK
ANYWAY, YOU CAN'T KILL ME
'CAUSE YOUR BROTHER ORDERED YOU TO BRING ME IN HALF-DEAD
IF I GET YOU JUST ONCE, YOU'RE DONE FOR

!!
...SOLVING PUZZLES IS A PAIN IN THE ASS

I HEARD ONCE ABOUT A GUERILLA TRAP USING FISHHOOKS OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT
GLASS FISHHOOKS...
I GET IT

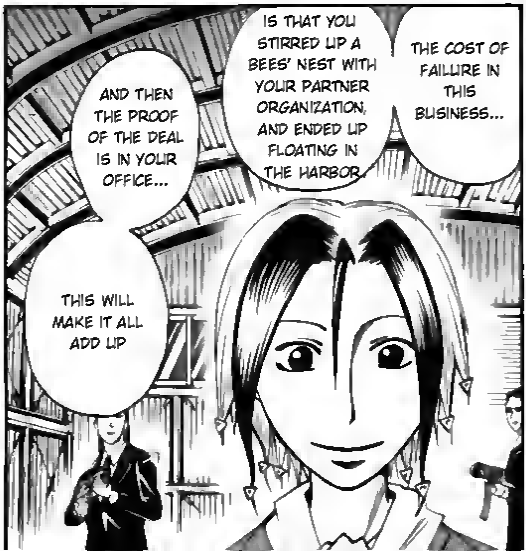
IT'S ATTACHED FROM THE INSIDE OF YOUR COAT POCKETS TO THE OUTSIDE
HIDING IT UNDER THE HEM, YOU DRAW IT OUT IN FRONT OF YOUR OPPONENT
THAT'S WHY YOUR WINTER COAT IS SO LONG
...YOU GET IT, BUT SO WHAT?
BOTH YOUR HANDS ARE FULL
THE MOMENT YOU LET GO TO HIT ME, IT'LL COME FLYING AGAIN
HEH
UNLIKE YOU, I DON'T HIDE ANYTHING
MY WEAPON'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU, AIN'T IT

ALSO, AFTER GOING TO THE TROUBLE OF GETTING WEAPONS
SHOULD WE GIVE THEM A SHOT


THE SUBORDINATES I HAVE HERE WILL PROTECT OUR SECRET...
AND AFTER, AT THE COMPANY
THEY'LL HAVE TO LISTEN TO MY ORDERS, NOT KNOWING WHAT HAPPENED

EEP

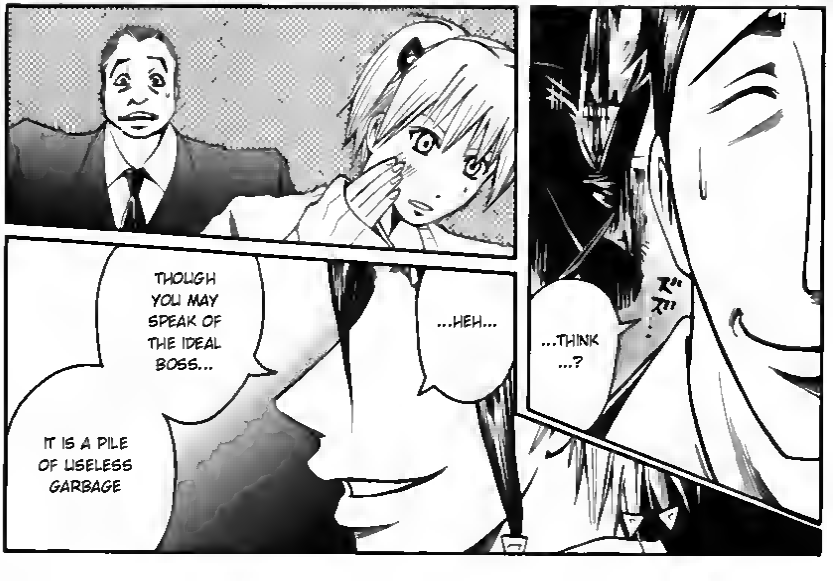
AND THEN THE INVESTI-GATORS


IS THAT YOU STIRRED UP A BEES' NEST WITH YOUR PARTNER ORGANIZATION, AND ENDED UP FLOATING IN THE HARBOR
THE COST OF FAILURE IN THIS BUSINESS...
AND THEN THE PROOF OF THE DEAL IS IN YOUR OFFICE...
THIS WILL MAKE IT ALL ADD UP

BOSS!
WE DON'T NEED YOU FOR YOUR CONNECTIONS TO THE POLICE'S OLD BOYS' NETWORK, NOW THAT WE HAVE WEAPONS
I'LL BE ENTRUSTED WITH BEING YOUR SUCCESSOR THEN, RIGHT
SHOULD WE MAKE YOU DISAPPEAR

THE ABILITY TO JUST PLAY IT OUT BY EAR
MAKES ME JUST ABOUT THE
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I
DE
AL
BO
SS

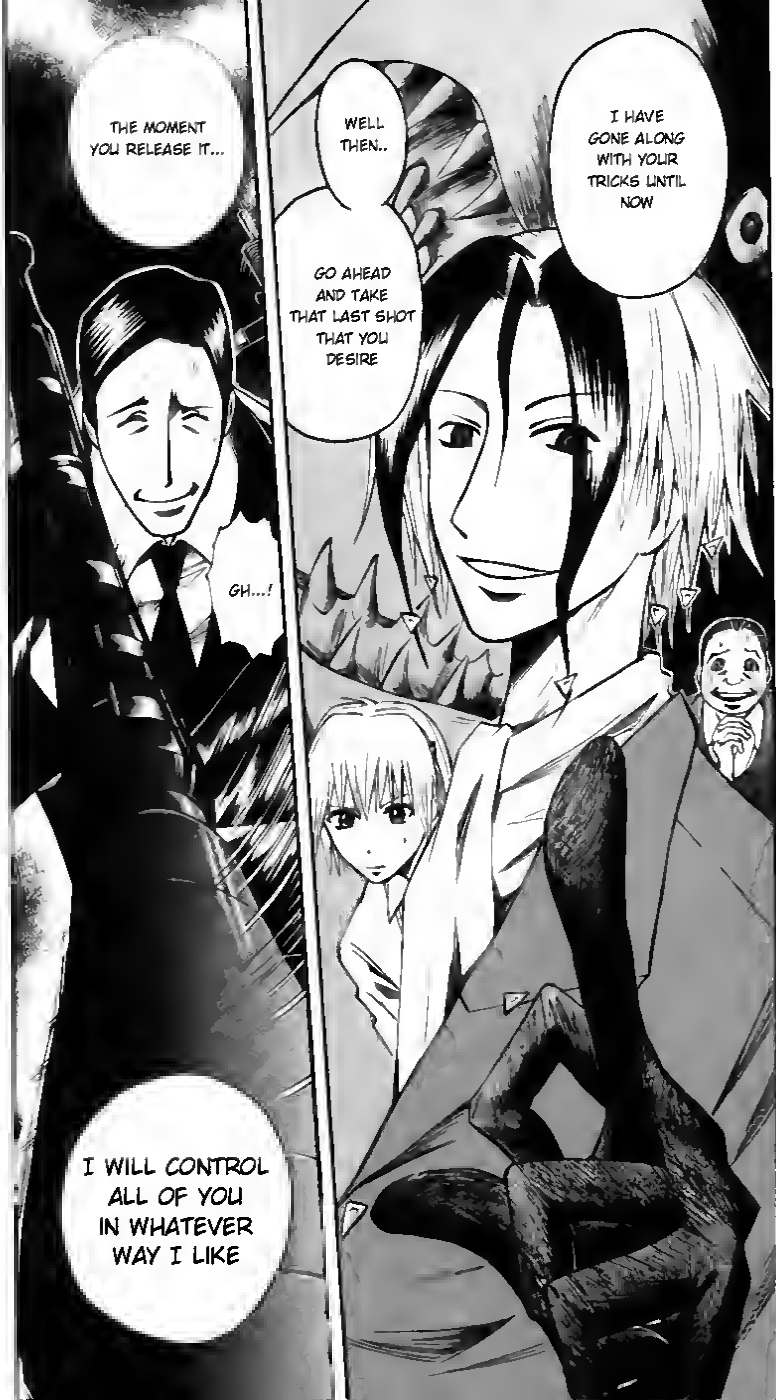
DON'T YOU...


THOUGH YOU MAY SPEAK OF THE IDEAL BOSS...
IT IS A PILE OF USELESS GARBAGE
...HEH...
...THINK ...?

WHAT IS SO GREAT ABOUT
A MAN WHO CANNOT PLUCK AWAY EVEN A SINGLE HUMAN RESOURCE
WHAT!?
WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IF YOUR FAITHFUL SUBORDINATES COULD NOT DO THEIR JOBS...
WHAT CAN YOU ALONE HOPE TO DO?
WHEN THERE IS VALUE IN OBEYING THEIR ORIGINAL MASTER
SHUT UP!!
I CAN WIPE UP GUYS LIKE YOU ON MY OWN!!
THOUGH THEY MAY BE SILENT, SLAVES GET THE WORK DONE

!
NEURO!!

YOU STILL HAVE NOT REALIZED IT?
THE MISTAKE YOU MADE, BEING DECEIVED BY YOUR OPPONENT
FUHAHAHA


I HAVE GONE ALONG WITH YOUR TRICKS UNTIL NOW
WELL THEN..
GO AHEAD AND TAKE THAT LAST SHOT THAT YOU DESIRE
THE MOMENT YOU RELEASE IT...
GH...!
I WILL CONTROL ALL OF YOU IN WHATEVER WAY I LIKE

望月建雄【MOCHIZUKI TATEO】

BIRTHDATE:
SEPTEMBER 15
AGE:
65
HEIGHT:
173 CM
WEIGHT:
100 KG
SPORTS HE'S GOOD AT:
SHOTPUT
BUSINESS STYLE:
SUBCONTRACTING
SUBSTANCE HE'S PROBABLY FULL OF:
COLLAGEN

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE:
THE WORDS "SUBCONTRACT" AND "SHOTPUT" CONTAIN THE SAME KANJI, MAKING IT A PLAY ON WORDS.

2006 AUTUMN-WINTER

CHAPTER 43

下【BROTHER】

BELOW

SPECIAL CALENDER

10

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
3	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	25	24	25	28	27	28
29	30	31				

11

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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12

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	18
12	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	28	27	28	29	30
31						

SPECIAL CALENDER

13	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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22						

14	T	W	T	S
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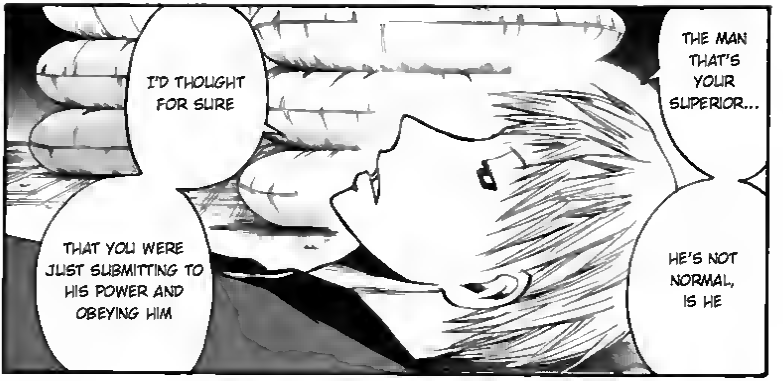
276	82	2999	%	32	33

15					
	11	###	41	351	
020					

WHAT IS THE MATTER?
YOUR HANDS ARE SHAKING
DO YOU NOT WANT TO SHOOT?
OR IS IT THAT
YOU ARE NOT GOING TO SHOOT?
A SINGLE NAKED MAN, SUBORDINATES HAVING LEFT THEIR SUPERIOR ...
ARE YOU SCARED
OF YOUR OWN POWERLESS-NESS
……ッ
DON'T...
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME, MONSTER!!
カハ!!


I'D THOUGHT FOR SURE
THAT YOU WERE JUST SUBMITTING TO HIS POWER AND OBEYING HIM
THE MAN THAT'S YOUR SUPERIOR...
HE'S NOT NORMAL, IS HE

TRANSLATION: ANONYMOUS · EDITING: ANONYMOUS · CLEANING: ANONYMOUS
DISTRIBUTE FREELY UNTIL LICENSED · TRANSLATIONS EXIST: ANONYMOUS DOES NOT FORGIVE!

BUT...
WITHOUT RELYING ON HIS ADVICE, YOU RAN STRAIGHT INTO DANGER...
YOUR EYES DIDN'T TREMBLE WITH EVEN THE LEAST BIT OF FEAR
..THAT WAS BECAUSE IT WAS USELESS ADVICE..
WHAT IS IT...?
WHAT IS IT THAT HAS YOU UNDER THEIR THUMBS?
SHADDUP ...
HE'S EVEN LESS NORMAL THAN YOU THINK, THAT SUPERIOR OF MINE
.....
.....AND ANYWAY...
IT'S NOT JUST HIM

THE TROUBLE IS ...
MAYBE MY OTHER SUPERIOR

FROM OUTSIDE, THE ASSISTANT
FROM INSIDE, THE INVESTIGATOR
I'M BEING WATCHED FROM BOTH SIDES, SEE?

FEARLESSLY, SHE LOOKS INSIDE TO SEE WHAT PEOPLE FEEL
EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T ASK FOR IT...
SHE DREW IT OUT OF ME WITH HER SIMPLE FACE

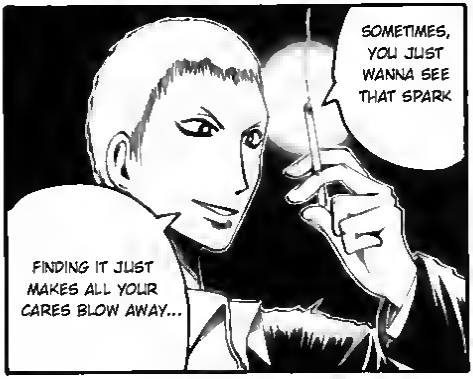
THAT COMBINATION ISN'T FAIR
THAT'S HOW IT GOT TO THE POINT THAT I CAN'T FIGHT THEM

I'D...
THOUGHT IT WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH BEING BETTER THAN BLOOD
BECAUSE ...
WE WERE THE STRONGEST FOR BEING BROTHERS, SUPERIOR AND SUBORDINATE

.... I SEE ...
ズ...
FROM INSIDE AND OUTSIDE...

.....
I DUNNO ABOUT THAT KINDA THING BUT HEY
YOU JERKS JUST HAVE TO JUST SETTLE IT BETWEEN YOURSELVES

THE TRUST BETWEEN US AS BROTHERS...
WHEN DID WE GET THAT WE COULDN'T SEE INSIDE EACH OTHER


SOMETIMES, YOU JUST WANNA SEE THAT SPARK
FINDING IT JUST MAKES ALL YOUR CARES BLOW AWAY...

BOTH OF YOU JUST HAVE TO LOOK FOR THAT SPARK OR SOMETHING, RIGHT?

B-3
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ

NOT LIKE THAT!!

YOU THINK WE'RE GONNA WORK IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!!
F-FIRE!!
ダダダ

WHAT THE FUCK HAPPENED IN THERE !!
WHA...
WHAT THE HELL!?
B-3
ゴゴゴゴゴ

SO THAT'S HOW IT WENT
THAT HAYASAKA GUY DIDN'T LISTEN TO HIM!!
THAT MONSTER!!
WHAT THE FUCK WENT ON IN THERE!!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT SMILING BASTARD!!
I HAVE LOST INTEREST IN THIS BORING MOCKERY
IT HAS SPOILED THE FUN OF MY PUNISHMENT
!!
HE SELF-DESTRUCTED
HM
LOOK
WITH THE DRUGS ON FIRE, THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED
PERHAPS HE DID NOT WANT TO ACCEPT DEFEAT
HE TURNED HIS FIRE TOWARDS THE DRUGS AND AMMUNITION
とるん

I DUNNO
IT BLEW THROUGH LIKE WILDFIRE IN THERE
REALLY, YOU WOULDN'T THINK A SUPERIOR WOULD BE UNFAITHFUL TO ANOTHER SUPERIOR BUT

WHA...
THEN, MY BROTHER...
WHAT HAPPENED TO MY BROTHER!!

...CHE
AS USUAL, NO MERCY, THAT GUY

BUT I HAVE A USE FOR THIS ONE
HE HAS NO INFLUENCE AT THIS POINT
HM
...SO WHAT NOW
WE'RE NOT GONNA SAVE HIM?
EEP

...
WHO WOULD DO THAT ALONE...

.....

HMM..
UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, IT MAY ONLY TAKE ONE PERSON ALONE TO SAVE HIM
WE NEED NOT INVOLVE OURSELVES

THE FAITHFUL SUBORDINATE THAT'S LEFT
WOULDN'T ABANDON HIM NO MATTER WHAT
MO...
...OH YEAH...
...IN THAT CASE... I GUESS WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY...

...?
PERSONNEL ?
IT IS NECESSARY FOR OUR NEW PERSONNEL
SO, SHALL WE RETURN TO THE OFFICE

I THOUGHT IF... I SOLD THAT HUGE ORDER OF WEAPONS
AND TOOK POSSESSION OF THE REMAINING WEAPONS AND MONEY...
I COULD HAVE DONE ANYTHING...
ゴオオオ
GUH...
SHIT... SO THIS IS IT...
COULD IT BE THAT... WITH HIM HERE...

I TOLD YOU THE ASSISTANT WAS DANGEROUS
AND HERE YOU ARE, BURIED FOR IT
YUKI...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I DON'T REMEMBER ORDERING YOU TO SAVE ME
...DRUGS AND AMMUNITION..
AS USUAL, DOING THINGS WITHOUT LETTING ME KNOW
IF THAT MONSTER HADN'T BEEN HERE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE PERFECT PLAN
..... OF COURSE
AS IF I WOULD WILLINGLY TALK TO A YOUNG MAN LIKE YOU ABOUT IT
DON'T LEAK SECRETS TO THOSE CLOSE TO YOU
A HARD-AND-FAST RULE OF DEALING IN INFORMATION
WHEN YOU...
INVITED ME TO JOIN THIS COMPANY, I WAS REALLY HAPPY

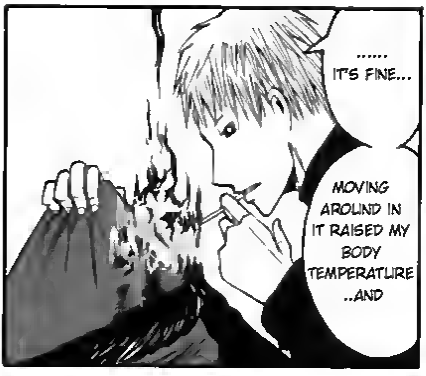
YOU'VE CHANGED SINCE YOU GOT HERE
...BUT
TEMPTED BY THE POWER AND PROFIT OF INFORMATION
YOU'VE GOTTEN THAT YOU CAN'T EVEN SHOW ME YOUR TRUE FACE

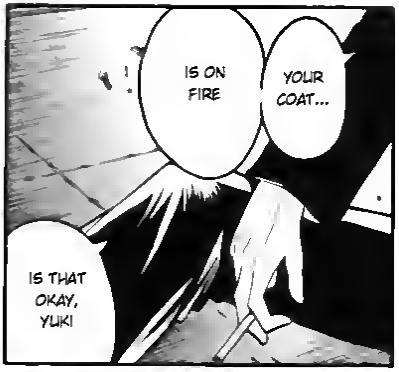
SO I REALLY APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'VE DONE FOR ME...
YOU'VE ALWAYS SAVED ME, BROTHER...
FINALLY, I CAN REPAY THE DEBT I OWE YOU

NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE'RE SUPERIOR AND SUBORDINATE, TIED TOGETHER BY BLOOD...
WE CAN'T EVEN WIN AGAINST COMPLETE STRANGERS
YOU JUST WANTED A FAITHFUL SERVANT
AND I JUST OBEYED WITHOUT DOUBTING YOU

.....

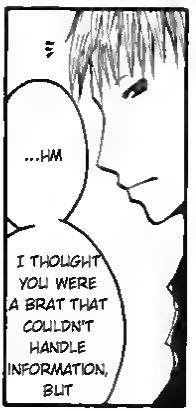
WHEN WE'RE JUST BROTHERS
THE BONDS WE'VE HAD SINCE BIRTH HAVE MADE US TOO DEPENDENT ON EACH OTHER


.....
IT'S FINE...
MOVING AROUND IN IT RAISED MY BODY TEMPERATURE ..AND


IS ON FIRE
YOUR COAT...
IS THAT OKAY, YUKI

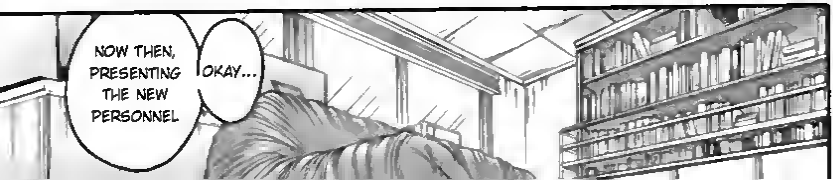
I DON'T FEEL VERY COLD
RIGHT NOW, SOMEHOW

SINCE WHEN...
DID YOU GET SO GROWN-UP...


...HM
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A BRAT THAT COULDN'T HANDLE INFORMATION, BUT

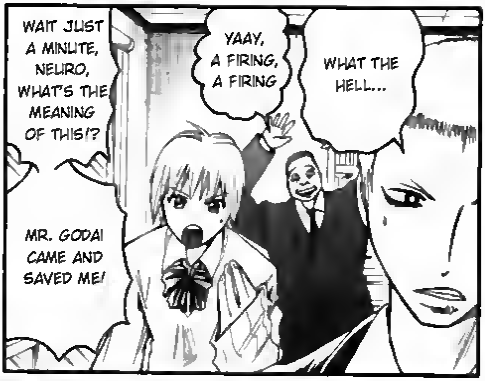
.....HEH...
AFTER TH TROUBLE I WENT TO TO BREAK THE ARMOR I MADE
I'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE IT AGAIN IN ANOTHER SHAPE
YOU STOPPED SMILING SO SUDDENLY
.... WHAT WAS THAT ..
IT MAKES YOU LOOK LIKE A PANTHER

...THAT'S RIGHT...
BECAUSE YOU'RE MY FAITHFUL SUBORDINATE ...
I'LL FOLLOW YOU, NO MATTER WHAT PLAN YOU PUT TOGETHER
WELL...
WHAT BAD THING ARE WE GOING TO PLAY AT NEXT...?


NOW THEN, PRESENTING THE NEW PERSONNEL
OKAY...

GODAI
YOU ARE FIRED

...HM, IS THAT THE WRONG WAY TO PUT IT
A BETTER WAY WOULD BE TO CALL IT A PERSONNEL TRANSFER

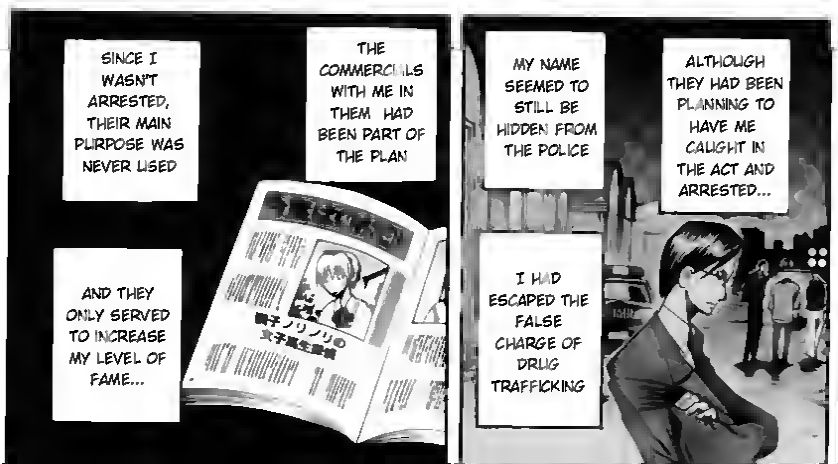

WAIT JUST A MINUTE, NEURO, WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS!?
MR. GODAI CAME AND SAVED ME!
YAAY, A FIRING, A FIRING
WHAT THE HELL...

!!
LOAN YOU OUT TO THIS FELLOW'S COMPANY
I WANT TO...

RAISING THIS COMPANY'S OVERALL POWER, WE CAN SEARCH FOR "PUZZLES" ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY
IF WE DO THAT, IT IS NECESSARY TO HAVE SOMEONE ACT AS A PIPELINE BETWEEN THEM AND US
THERE IS NO WAY THAT I WOULD NOT USE A LEADING COMPANY...
LIKE THIS FELLOW'S RESEARCH INSTITUTION
I GOTCHA.
FROM INSIDE THIS FELLOW'S COMPANY, YOU WILL OBSERVE THEIR WORK
I'LL GET A PRETTY GOOD SALARY, TOO
IT IS A NEW ODD-JOB TO ADD ON
YOU CANNOT TELL ME THAT YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN THE THINGS YOU HAVE DONE TO US
D-DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS !!
BASICALLY, THAT KILLING US WOULD BE FINE
WHY WOULD I LET HIM
EVEN THOUGH THERE WASN'T A "PUZZLE", NEURO WENT ALONG WITH THE TRAP EAGERLY...
I SEE...
IN OTHER WORDS, BECAUSE HE WANTED IT TO TURN OUT LIKE THIS IN THE END, I GUESS...

I WOULD SAY YOU WILL ALLOW IT, GIVEN THAT WE COULD EXTORT THE VERY MARROW OUT OF YOUR COMPANY...
USING A TAPE OF THE EVIL DEEDS YOU CONFESSED TO...
REALLY, YOU SHOULD BE THANKING ME, SHOULD YOU NOT?
ズズ...

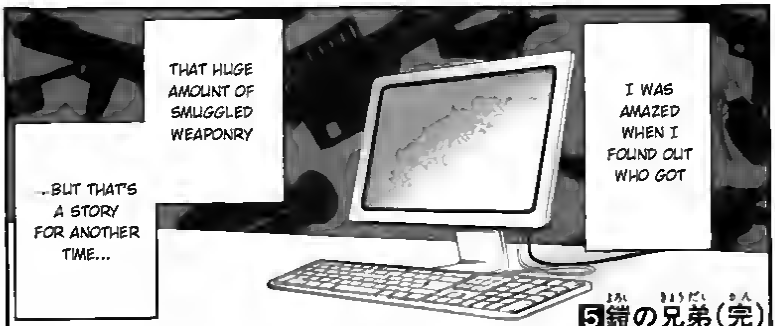
DAWN BROKE ON THAT VERY LONG NIGHT
... YES ...
...AND SO...


SINCE I WASN'T ARRESTED, THEIR MAIN PURPOSE WAS NEVER USED
THE COMMERCIALS WITH ME IN THEM HAD BEEN PART OF THE PLAN
AND THEY ONLY SERVED TO INCREASE MY LEVEL OF FAME...
MY NAME SEEMED TO STILL BE HIDDEN FROM THE POLICE
ALTHOUGH THEY HAD BEEN PLANNING TO HAVE ME CAUGHT IN THE ACT AND ARRESTED...
I HAD ESCAPED THE FALSE CHARGE OF DRUG TRAFFICKING

AND THEN, MOCHIZUKI'S RESEARCH INSTITUTION
BEING CONTROLLED BY NEURO THROUGH GODAI
WAS REDUCED TO
SEARCHING NATIONWIDE FOR "PUZZLES" AT NO COST TO US

OKAY, LET'S GO~...
...AND ONE MORE THING...

I HAVE BEEN CONTACTED ABOUT A "PUZZLE" BY OUR ODD-JOBS MAN
...WHAT, AGAIN ...?
SHALL WE GO, YAKO
IT'S EVERY DAY NOW...


I WAS AMAZED WHEN I FOUND OUT WHO GOT
THAT HUGE AMOUNT OF SMUGGLED WEAPONRY
...BUT THAT'S A STORY FOR ANOTHER TIME...

5鎧の兄弟(完)

早坂幸宜
【HAYASAKA YUKINORI】

BIRTHDATE:
DECEMBER 23
AGE:
22
HEIGHT:
176 CM
WEIGHT:
63 KG
FAVORITE FOOD:
ICE CREAM
FAVORITE WEATHER:
SNOWSTORM
BOND THAT HE TRUSTS:
BROTHERHOOD

早坂久宜
【HAYASAKA HISANORI】

BIRTHDATE:
JANUARY 15
AGE:
36
HEIGHT:
182 CM
WEIGHT:
80 KG
FAVORITE MOVIE
SCREAM
FAVORITE ITEMS:
WEAPONS
SUBORDINATE THAT HE TRUSTS:
HIS BROTHER

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: MORE PROFILE WORDPLAY. SNOWSTORM = "FUBUKI". WEAPONS = "BUKI"